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THE SPECTATOR

Students Rally for More Solidarity, Sensitivity

by Daniel Steinman '12
News Writer

If you were on the dark side on Monday, Sept. 7, you noticed the rally in Kirkland Circle. Student activists parked a car displaying "FAG" on the sidewalk and surrounded it with other derogatory terms written on the ground in chalk. The rally, sponsored by the Womyn's Center, featured participants wearing "Person" signs and handing out flyers intended to clarify the difference between objects and people.

Jessica Carroll '12, a member of the Womyn's Center, participated in the rally. She explained that the rally was held in response to two recent events on campus: an incident of hate speech being etched onto a student's car, as well as Alpha Delta Phi's dispensation of what many deemed to be offensive party invitations sent exclusively to increase the attendance of female first-year students at the party.

Carroll expressed that the words written around the car were meant to send a message.

"It isn't just this one word," she said. "It's all of these things."

The party was called "Golf Pros and Tennis Hoes" and featured a very suggestive picture of a woman in tennis attire. The fraternity sent out a campus-wide e-mail apology on Friday, Sept. 4. "If they just apologize, it goes away, which is kind of the problem," said Carroll

Laura Mattison '10, a member of Rainbow Alliance, cited that the invitations were only sent to new students as a large part of the issue, "There was nothing subtle about [the invitations]. It was about taking advantage of that balance of power."

Mattison responded to critics who point out that such invitations are not new on campus. "I think more people are trying to say, we've been finding [these types of invitations] unacceptable for a while now. In the past, lots of fraternities making poor choices have gone unchallenged." She also wanted to note that she found the "Women are Objects!" mock party invitations sent out by *The Duel Observer* to be very funny. "People think that Rainbow doesn't have a sense of humor," she said, "We do."

In regard to the rally, Mattison described the atmosphere as positive. "The best thing that came out of it [was] that we had a huge showing at the panel," she said, referring to the "Words Matter" campus forum, which was held the following evening in the Kirner-Johnson Building.

According to Mattison, over 130 people attended the forum. She described the discussion as "a really good conversation" that incorporated a "much wider range of opinions than had ever been heard at these things."

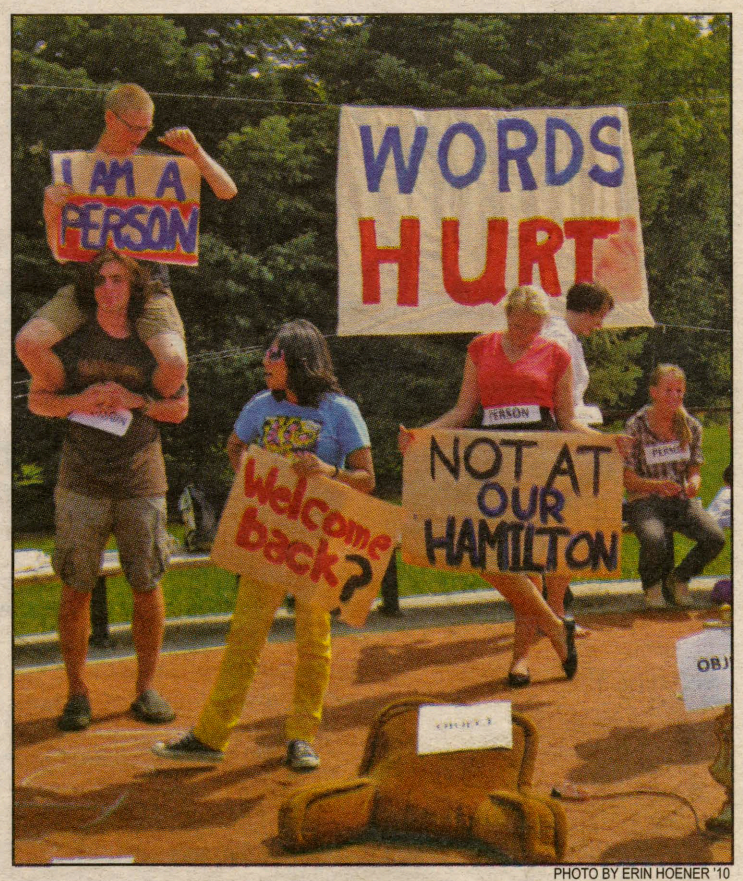

PHOTO BY ERIN HOENER '10

Students express frustration over recent incidents on campus by holding a rally outside KJ this past Monday.

Womyn's Center Relocates

by Russ Doubleday '11
News Editor

When the South Court building was set to be demolished last spring, it's most notable tenant was faced with the task of packing up memories and vacating their longtime home. On Saturday, Womyn's Center members finished setting up their new home on the second floor of the Azel Backus House.

"At the end of last year, we packed the [Womyn's] Center up into boxes and sometime over the summer physical plant moved it all into the new space," said Amy Tannenbaum '10, a member of the Womyn's Center. "As soon as we got on campus this year, we started unpacking and finally finished last Saturday, just in time for our open house on Monday."

The Center's first meeting every year is an open house. This allows prospective first-year members to see the space and get to know the members.

Tannenbaum was very impressed with the turnout at their new location. "There were between 30 and 40 people; we discussed events for the year and what we want to accomplish as a group," she said.

The Womyn's Center had been housed in South Court since 1986. That space was substantially larger than the room on the second floor of the Azel Backus house they are using now and the old space also contained many unmovable but irreplaceable items.

"The Womyn's Center was there for a very long time and had a lot of historic value," Tannenbaum explained. "The walls

see ***Womyn's Center,*** *page 2*

PHOTO BY JESSICA CARROLL '12

Womyn's Center members host an open house in their new space in the Azel Backus House. About 40 people showed up to tour the room and meet the group members.

Students Save Big at 2nd Cram and Scram

by Emily Delbridge '13
News Writer

When you're packing up shop at the end of the school year and there isn't room for all of your furniture and food in the car, what do you do? Thanks to the employees of Hamilton's Cram and Scram, you no longer have to throw it out. On Aug. 25 and 27, the second annual Cram and Scram helped to give back to the Hamilton community what some students left behind.

> **"The turnout was terrifying," said Kathryn Arpino '10. "We've actually been contacted by people from other colleges who are considering starting similar programs."**

The trend here at Hamilton is to study intensely for exams, take the exams, and get out of town as fast as possible, thus the term "cram and scram." For the past two years, Ashley Langer '09 has led a small group of students in gathering up the unwanted supplies, furniture, and recyclable materials of those leaving the Hill. This past May, they helped to reduce the campus' waste production by about 35 percent.

Materials such as food, kitchen items and clothing were sent to charity organizations such as the Salvation Army and Clark's Mills Food Pantry. All bedding materials were sent to the local Humane Society to be used as pet beds. Other items such as microwaves, furniture, rugs, and lamps were stored for the summer in anticipation of a college-wide sale at the beginning of the fall term.

About a week prior to the semester's beginning, ten students returned to unload and prepare four trailers full of merchandise, including over 150 couches, fu

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Forum Weighs Words' Impact

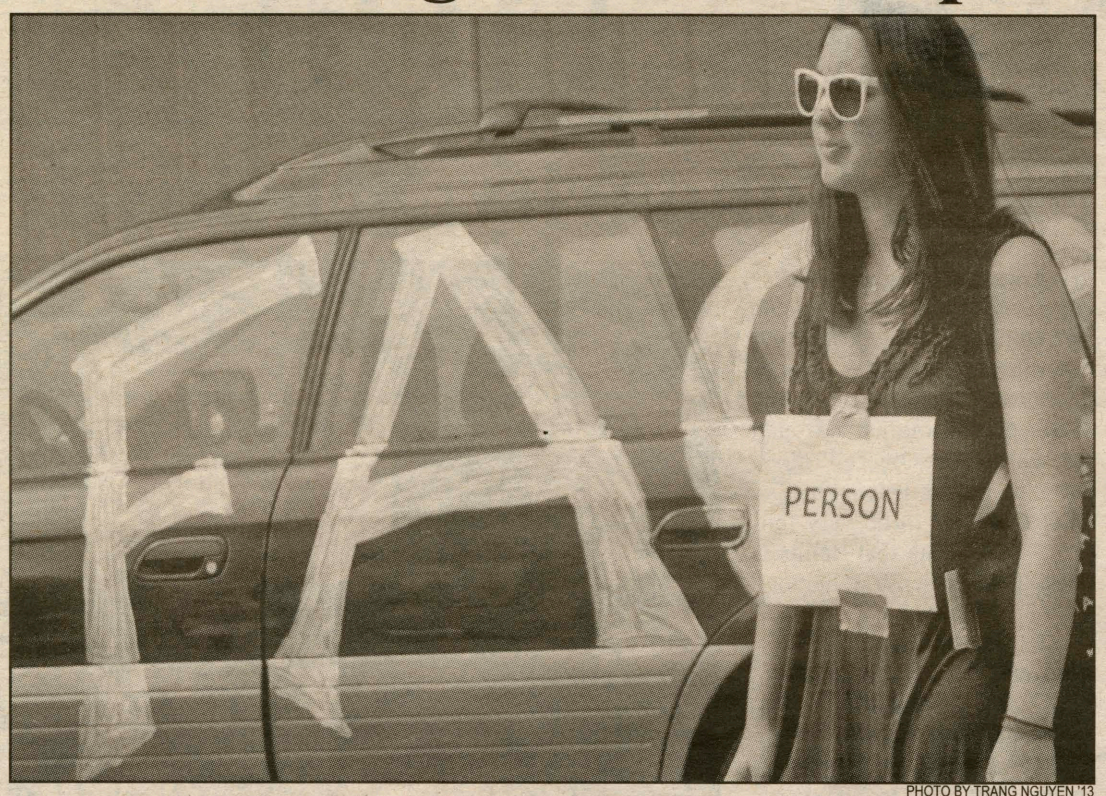

PHOTO BY TRANG NGUYEN '13

Savannah Kanell '10 participated in the student rally on Monday. The "Words Matter" forum, held on Tuesday, directly addressed the concerns of these participants.

by Adam Fix '13
News Writer

Do actions speak louder than words? Not necessarily, according to some members of the Hamilton community. On Tuesday, Sept. 8, students and faculty gathered to discuss the power of language and its usage at an all-campus forum entitled "Words Matter." The event was hosted by a number of organizations, including the Black and Latino Student Union, the Brothers Organization, Rainbow Alliance, the Social Justice Initiative, the Womyn's Center and the Cultural Education Center (CEC).

The meeting primarily dealt with the issues of offensive language and imagery including, but not limited to, the hate speech scratched onto one student's vehicle two Sundays ago and the party theme and invitations recently issued by the Alpha Delta Phi fraternity.

In response to the outrage over their party theme, the fraternity sent an official apology via all-campus e-mail. As for the car incident, both Campus Safety and the Kirkland Police Department conducted investigations, but, according to Assistant Dean of Students Jeffrey Landry, they have "no suspects" so far.

Though they were clearly connected to the discussion, Professor Madeleine Lopez, a visiting instructor and consulting director of the CEC, said that the faculty had been planning the forum before either of the aforementioned events took place, and that the discussion was also intended to address the issue of words and their impact in a broader context.

Said forum attendee Chiuba Obele '13, "As a freshman, I wanted to understand the community here and how we can overcome tensions between us. I think it's great that Hamilton brings people together to confront these problems that divide us." He added, "I hope this dialogue will continue for years to come."

The forum started with faculty speakers, beginning with Professor of Anthropology Bonnie Urciuoli, who discussed the effects context and intention play in potentially offensive language. Professor Urciuoli said that "a lot of social classifications…are not objects of nature. These things are the product of social institutions." She stressed how language intended to poke fun at social divisions such as race or class can easily be taken as offensive by a group that has no way of knowing the intent behind the original message.

Associate Professor of Africana Studies Donald Carter noted that serious violence and prejudice often begins in small groups of people. Drawing from his experiences in Darfur, Professor Carter noted the way in which larger groups of people can easily make smaller groups feel disenfranchised, leading to violence and even outright genocide. He also cited *Survival in Auschwitz*, a narrative on the concentration camp of the same name, as a "sinister alarm signal," that emphasized the dangers of any kind of group oppression.

A member of Alpha Delta Phi attending the forum apologized to all offended by the inappropriate party theme. The member hoped that his presence would "facilitate a more poignant discussion," and, referring to the party, said that, "I truly regret if anyone feels uncomfortable because of my actions." He also attempted to dispel rumors that party invitations were sent only to first-year female students, claiming that if first-years got the majority of the invites, the intent was merely to include a new class unfamiliar with campus events.

When asked where one draws the line between humorous and offensive expression, Professor Urciuoli advised everyone to ask themselves: "How does this look as a public action?" and went on to point out the differing meanings words can have in private conversation versus in statements to the general public.

The forum ended with an open discussion among students and faculty regarding the proper use of language in the Hamilton community and the extent to which censorship is acceptable.

SA Update

Committee to Determine Community Values

by Eve Denton '12
Student Assembly Correspondent

Last semester, in light of the controversy surrounding an on-campus party theme, Student Assembly created a committee to work on a "Statement of Community Values." Although there was also discussion by Student Assembly last semester regarding the formation of a social honor code, it was decided that such a code could infringe on First Amendment rights. Student Assembly would like the committee to continue its work on a community values statement this semester. It is their hope that the statement from the committee could be sent to incoming freshmen alongside the honor code and signed by all future classes. The statement would put forth the values held by Hamilton College, which could include respect of others and awareness of differences.

The committee will meet next on Wednesday, Sept. 16 at 4 p.m. Students interested in participating in the drafting of this statement should e-mail Student Assembly President Amy Goldstein at agoldste@hamilton.edu.

Womyn's Center Finds New Home

from ***Womyn's Center,*** *page 1*

were covered with artwork and other physical memories that old members put up. We worked with physical plant and they were able to save some of our favorite parts of the wall, but many other parts were permanently lost."

Even though the new space is smaller, the Womyn's Center is warming up to the new space. It does not carry the memories from the old home other than what could be salvaged, but the space has a kitchen and a bathroom, something they didn't have before, as Tannenbaum points out. However, the new space wasn't big enough to hold everyone who turned out for the open house.

Azel Backus will not be a permanent home for the Womyn's Center. When the Cultural Education Center is built, the group plans on permanently moving into that space. Until then, the members of the Womyn's Center are happy to have a home, albeit a temporarily one.

"So far, we like the new space and think it has a lot of potential," Tannenbaum said.

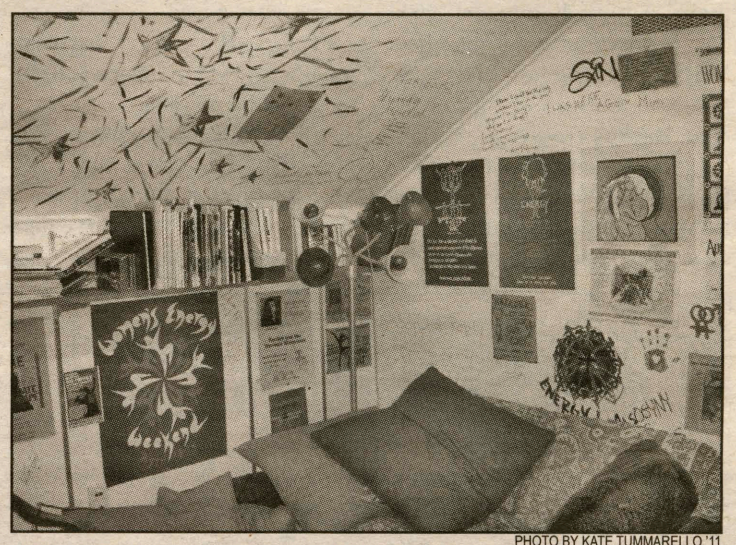

PHOTO BY KATE TUMMARELLO '11

The walls of the old Womyn's Center were spattered with memorabilia which proved difficult to salvage.

Cram and Scram Reduces Waste

from ***Students,*** *page 1*

tons, and chairs. The two-day tent sale was held in North Lot, and supposedly went from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. However, with everything priced under $50, eager deal-seekers were queuing up outside the tent as much as two hours early.

"The turnout was terrifying," said Kathryn Arpino '10, who has been involved in Cram and Scram from the beginning and will be heading the efforts in the coming year. Overwhelming or not, the event was considered a success. In only its second year in existence, Cram and Scram enjoyed a $6,000 net profit.

This self-sustaining pilot program offers an attractive way to encourage green lifestyles among students at this, and possibly other schools in the area. Said Arpino, "We've actually been contacted by people from other colleges who are considering starting similar programs."

"Cram and Scram is successful because it's easy for students to participate," said Elijah LaChance '10. "Too many environmental programs are great for the environment, but hard on students. The easier it is to go green, the more people will do it."

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Streaking Team to Face Stricter Stance on Nudity

by Eloise Walter '11
News Writer

The administration is clearing up some confusion over the right to run around naked. After eight complaints over the past year, Dean of Students Nancy Thompson sent out an all-campus e-mail this summer as a reminder that streakers will receive four points under the charge of "conduct that is disruptive, lewd or indecent." The violation was formally addressed for the first time this summer, even though streaking has a significant history at Hamilton.

Seventeen students founded Hamilton's Varsity Streaking Team in 2002 and became famous for streaking all ten other NESCAC schools. Over the years, team members have streaked everything, ranging from Accepted Students Day to Reading Period. The team's membership has grown substantially since then. Last spring, the team reached its height with a streak involving 73 students, over 4 percent of the student population. The team's infamy culminated in an all campus party and screening of their documentary, "Streak To Win."

The team may have received more attention than desired, however. According to former Hamilton streaker Dave Moroney '09, the exposure "helped generate an atmosphere of invincibility surrounding the team, which helped tons of new streakers gather the courage to join the team. Tragically, that same ethos seems to have brought about this terrible [new rule] given the inappropriate actions of a few this summer."

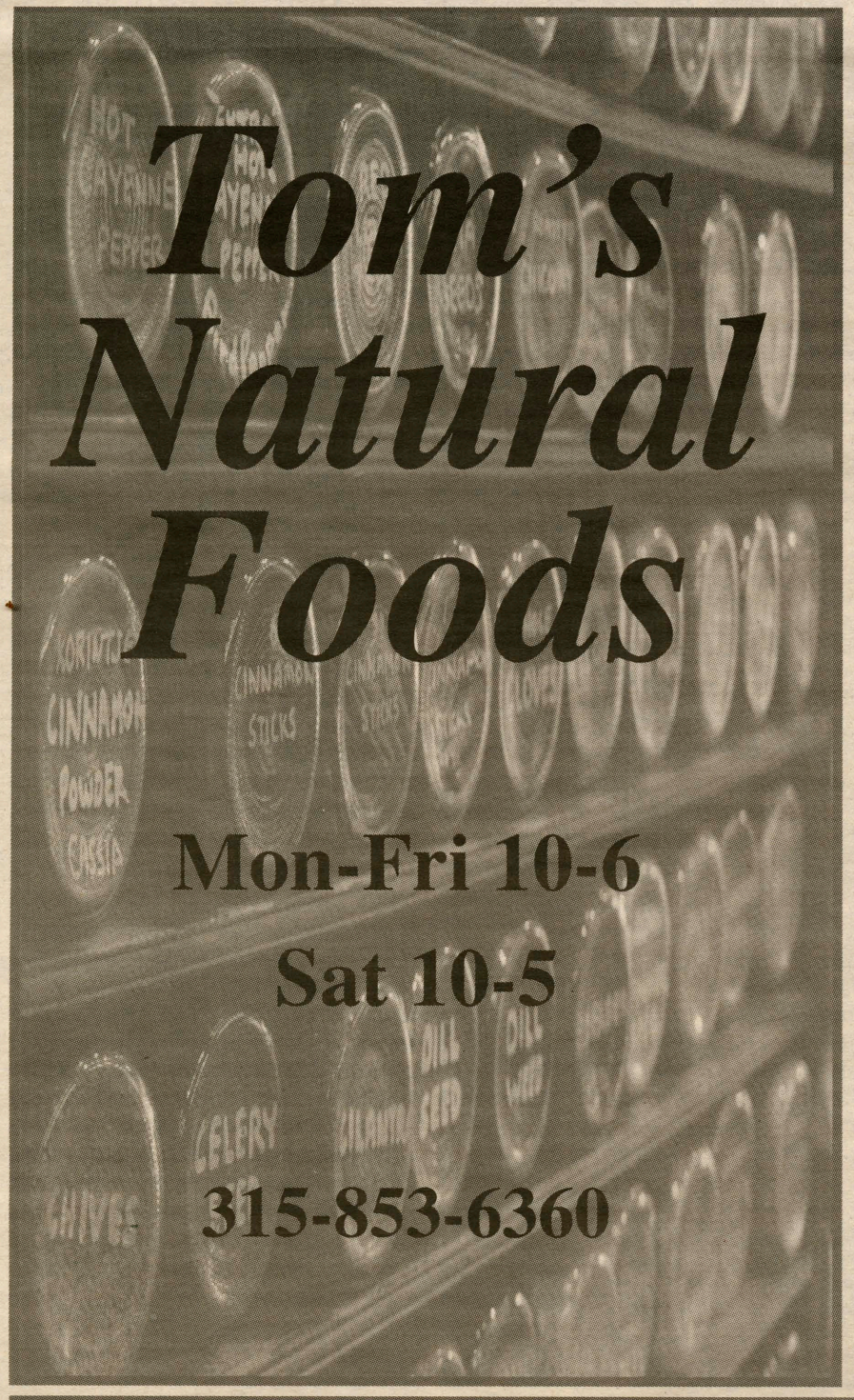
According to the Director of Campus Safety Francis Manfredo, "it became clear this summer that things had gone too far." The last straw for Hamilton streakers occurred in July, when, as witnessed by Campus Safety, "a group of students ran naked and screaming through a dining hall full of children and into the admissions building during an information session." Assistant Dean of Students Jeff Landry agrees that this summer's incident "crossed too many lines," and represents the difference between streaking college-aged students and streaking six-year-old campers.

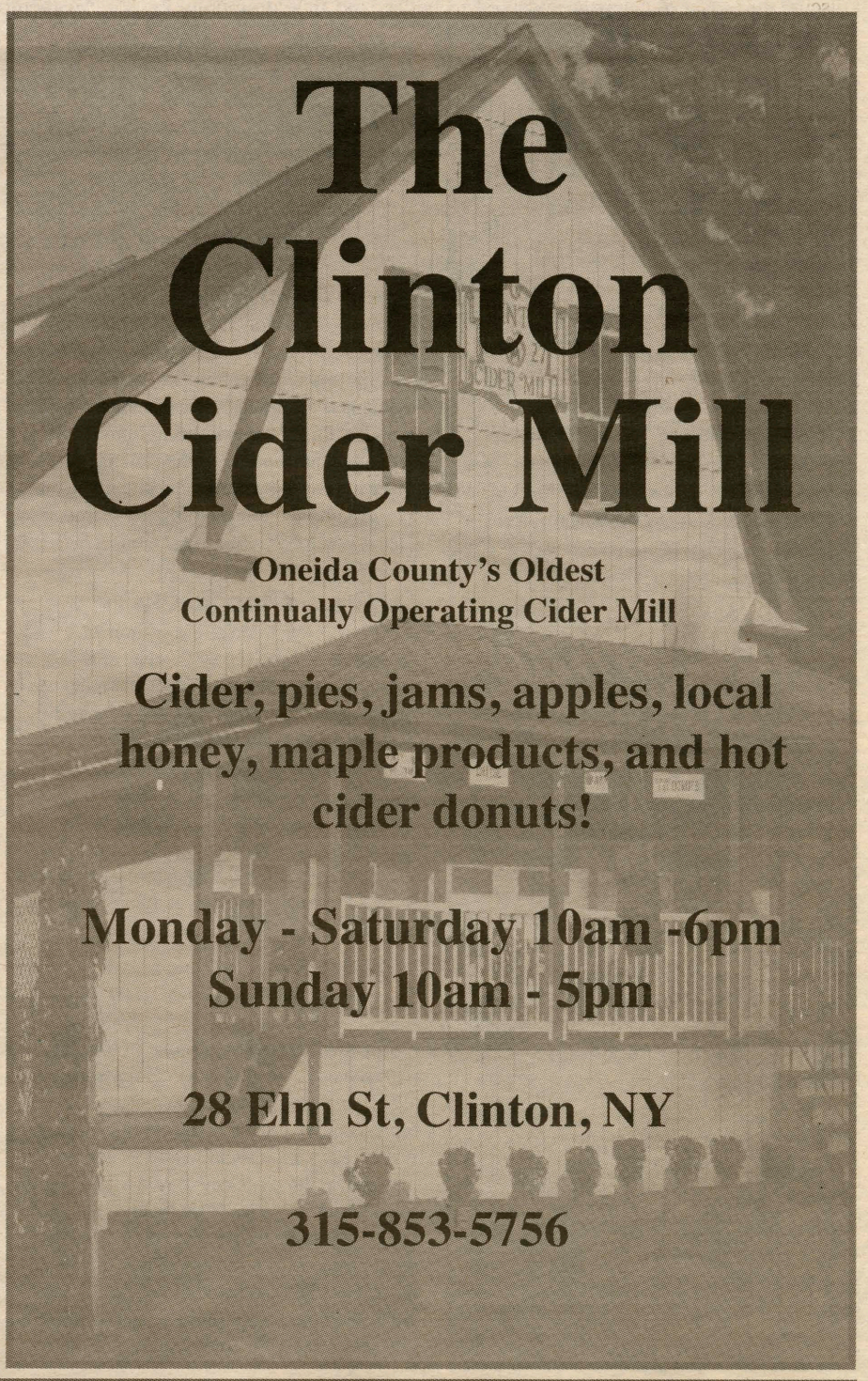
Whether or not the new policy discourages streaking is debatable, and only time will determine how effective it is. "While this will certainly discourage the casual streaker, I would hope that a committed core still remains with cajones large enough to carry the team to victory once more," said Moroney. Anonymous streakers claimed they will "politely ignore" the new policy and simply don more masks.

Whatever happens, Campus Safety hopes the new policy "will help students make smarter decisions about public nudity."

WWW.STREAKTOWIN.COM

A member of the Varsity Streaking Team carried a Hamilton flag on the team's tour of the other NESCAC schools. Streaking at Hamilton may now be more strictly enforced.

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Class of 2013 Student Assembly Officer Platforms

Class President

Robert Finan

My name is Bobby Finan and I am running for Student Assembly President. After participating for three years on the student government in high school, I successfully served my senior year as student body president. I am committed to take on the responsibilities that would come with the position with utmost dedication. I already have taken initiative to become familiar with the names and faces of our class, and am motivated to continue learning as I work for your needs, interests, and objectives for the year. Thank you, Bobby Finan

Knute Gailor

The diversity of ideas, viewpoints, and backgrounds within Hamilton's community makes a leader's most important characteristics a willingness to listen, an ability to engage in discussion, and an ability to analyze what he or she hears. As President, my most important job will be to find the best ideas, regardless of by whom they're held, and use them to create effective solutions to problems. While I don't know what challenges the coming year will bring, I firmly believe that with integrity, hard work, and a commitment to cooperation, I can help the class of 2013 shape and improve Hamilton College.

John Lucas

I love Hamilton! I've been here for just over two weeks now and I've been smitten since day one. I want everyone to love it here as much as I do. If elected, I'll make sure that there's plenty of fun stuff to do on campus; I want to work with you to make sure you're having a good time. In terms of more serious issues, I will actively campaign for responsible sustainability, varied (and healthy) dining options, and more funding for new and unusual student organizations. Vote for Jake, he loves cake. And Hamilton too!

Class Representatives

Elizabeth Amster

Hi! My name is Elizabeth Amster and I am running for class representative. I'm from Oceanside, New York and I'm hoping to be an English major. I would really like to become involved in the Student Assembly and be an active member of the class of 2013. If you ever have a problem or a change you would like to see happen, please feel free to tell me about it and I will do my best to help you out. I love meeting new people so feel free to stop me on campus just to say "hey girl hey!"

Raymond Cudjoe

I'm interested in running for a class representative because I think this is my chance to take initiative for myself and become the leader that I want to be. A leader that will learn to listen to the people he represents and make decisions that will both be beneficial to them as an individual, and Hamilton as a whole. Decisions will be based solely on the best information available to me and what the general class wants and not on feelings and personal preferences.

Michael Koester

I served two terms as Student President in high school. My greatest achievement was negotiating with school authorities by setting up the first delegation in my school to the Board of Education to bring about change in recycling, cafeteria food, and cell phone policies. It's to this capacity that I would serve as a representative. Given the recent policy changes it is important I contribute my expertise to work towards enhancing the influence of the student body. I would help get the most from our school by working together to bring in the future while respecting the traditions of Hamilton.

Aaron Lenz

I am running for this position because I see student government as a valuable form of civic engagement. My experience in the area informs me that gauging and representing classmates' opinions is a challenging and often rewarding exercise. It is also my hope, as a first-year, to gain an understanding of the College's values that will span my enrollment, and make me a more conscientious community member. Thank you for your consideration.

Chip Sinton

"Hey, my name is Chip. I'm running for Class Rep so I can have a position from which to protect and advocate for the rights and privileges of students. I'll work to protect and expand privacy and on-campus freedom. As class representative, I'd represent the class, but I think that's pretty inherent in the name. I'll deal with serious issues without taking myself too seriously. I've got experience, 25 signatures, time and a sense of humor – is there really any reason to not vote for me?"

Catherine Smith

Hello everybody, I'm Katy Smith and I'm running for one of the class representative positions. If it's reassuring at all, I was my junior and senior class representative for my high school, so I know what the job entails and what's going on. I've always taken an active role in my board to make sure my class was functioning and happy. I promise to try and come up with great projects for our class, and to make myself available to listen to your ideas as well. So, vote for me and I'll try and make this year awesome!

Secretary/Treasurer

Ada Horne

I am interested in running for the position of treasurer/ secretary because I want to be involved in the decision making at Hamilton. My previous experience includes two years as my class treasurer in high school, treasurer of the National Honor Society, and two years on the executive committee for my class. I have always been very committed to these positions. I believe that the Student Assembly is integral to Hamilton and would love the opportunity to be part of it. I would be dedicated to my position and work hard to make a difference for our community.

Michael Kahn

I, Michael Kahn, have decided to declare my candidacy for the position of treasurer for the class of 2013. I have been involved in business and investment for 8 years, having managed the majority of my own portfolio, diversified amongst stocks, bonds, commodities, and real estate. I spent my last 3 summers working for Feduro S.A in Panama, Kahn Hoffman and Hochman CPAS, and Milbrook Properties, respectively. In each of these experiences, I learned the skills associated with managing and raising money. I feel that by utilizing my experiences in these fields, I will be able to conservatively and productively

Aaron Lenz

I am running for this position because I see student government as a valuable form of civic engagement. My experience in the area informs me that gauging and representing classmates' opinions is a challenging and often rewarding exercise. It is also my hope, as a first-year, to gain an understanding of the College's values that will span my enrollment, and make me a more conscientious community member. Thank you for your consideration.

Honor Court

Danielle Lashley

I am running for Honor Court Representative because I saw how my high school's Honor Code created a positive atmosphere for that community. Hamilton's Honor Code fosters an environment of mutual respect among students and faculty that allows everyone to explore their unique academic and personal aspirations without reservation. I feel qualified to protect this relationship because the spirit of the Honor Code is at the core of everything I do, whether writing a paper or holding a door for someone. I view this position as an opportunity to help ensure the safety and integrity of every individual at Hamilton.

Ben Li

My interest in the position of Honor Court Representative stems from many factors such as a desire to continue participation in student government, an aspiration for making a difference and carrying out justice for the student body. Furthermore, I feel my personal qualities, principles, and experience would make me a prime candidate for Honor Court Representative. During my upperclassmen years in high school I was on my school's Integrity Council, which is similar to the Honor Court but with the combined responsibilities of the Judicial Board. Therefore, I believe I have vital experience in this type of student representation.

Genevieve Nierman

I'm Genevieve Nierman and I'm running for Honor Court Representative for the Class of 2013. Having spent all four years of high school serving as an elected representative on our own honor court, I know what it takes to be a successful member. Of course fairness and the ability to be objective are important, but what I take most seriously is confidentiality. No one deserves to have their mistakes publicized and I promise that I will always keep all aspects of a hearing confidential. You deserve a representative who is experienced, trustworthy, and is willing to fight for you.

Elizabeth Scholz

Hamilton College presents endless possibilities to its students; however, the student's full potential cannot be reached if the school does not provide an honest, safe, respectful, and open community. As a first year, I want to help facilitate the environment that has created and graduated many successful, respectful, and honest students. If I were to be part of the honor court, I would feel like I was contributing to this unique college environment while helping to promote the values that the school and myself find central to creating a wonderful education.

Drew Upright

Everyone is fully aware of the phrase 'cheating is bad'. But for how many is it just a string of words? And to how many do the words actually matter? I'm sick of having been in a place where cheating was not considered bad, but rather a necessity to getting by. I would hope that integrity and Hamilton go hand in hand and being a part of the Honor Court would show me that they do. I truly believe that it is better to fail honestly, than to lie to teachers, your peer's, and yourself by means of cheating.

THE SPECTATOR EDITORIAL

Own Your Part of the Conversation

Given the events that have occurred on the Hill over the last two semesters an outside observer might think that our campus was rife with bigots, racists and people yearning to do whatever they can imagine to annoy, insult and outrage the rest of the Hamilton community. Those of us who live on the Hill, however, know that this is not the case, and we must keep this in mind as the College community continues to wrestle with issues of prejudice and bigotry.

Admittedly, things look bleak right now. *The Spectator* has reported on multiple incidents that are both disturbing and disheartening in this regard. The apparent prevalence of these incidents seems to indicate that the Hamilton community is one of a sordid nature. However, it only *seems* that way. We can say with confidence that the majority of Hamilton students are thoughtful, respectful, and intelligent, *not* ignorant, oblivious, and inconsiderate. A few individuals have perpetrated these acts that are at worst hateful and at best careless, and the community clearly expresses disapproval of the perpetrators, albeit in various ways.

The most visible expressions of outrage have come from student organizations that have chosen to respond to the incidents with fliers, rallies and forums. While these events have certainly provided the medium for a dialogue and demonstration of support, not all students feel comfortable responding in such a way. The widely varied reactions and opinions of the student body demonstrate a valuable diversity of thought, and we must pay close attention to each one, whether or not it is attention that they seek.

We must also conduct this dialogue in a manner that is sensitive to those directly involved in specific incidents. Fliers, rallies, and forums are unquestionably an important part of this dialogue, but there is a danger in using certain incidents to champion a larger cause, as it sometimes ends up further victimizing the victims. The generalization of these specific incidents to the greater climate of the Hamilton community is not only misleading, but also serves to invalidate and exacerbate the difficult experiences of the individual victims.

All of this means that you, and every other member of the Hamilton community must make an effort to address the issues of intolerance and insensitivity head-on. Instead of mocking those whose voices rise above the rest, go up to them and make yours heard. If you don't think that forums and rallies will help raise awareness and understanding on this campus, then offer some alternatives that will. Whatever you do, whatever positions you take, please do not consider indifference as an option. Apathy will continue to let the words of some community members determine a discussion that affects us all.

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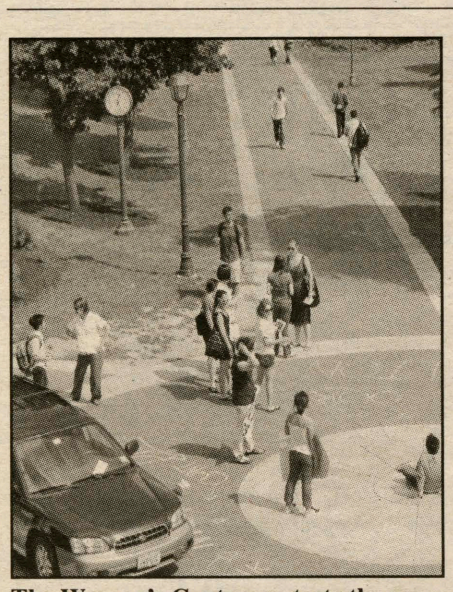
Faceoff:

Are Structured Forums Necessary to Facilitate Change in our Community?



The Womyn's Center protests the use of the word "ho" on a party invitation.

Yes

by Elizabeth Kosar '10
Opinion Contributor

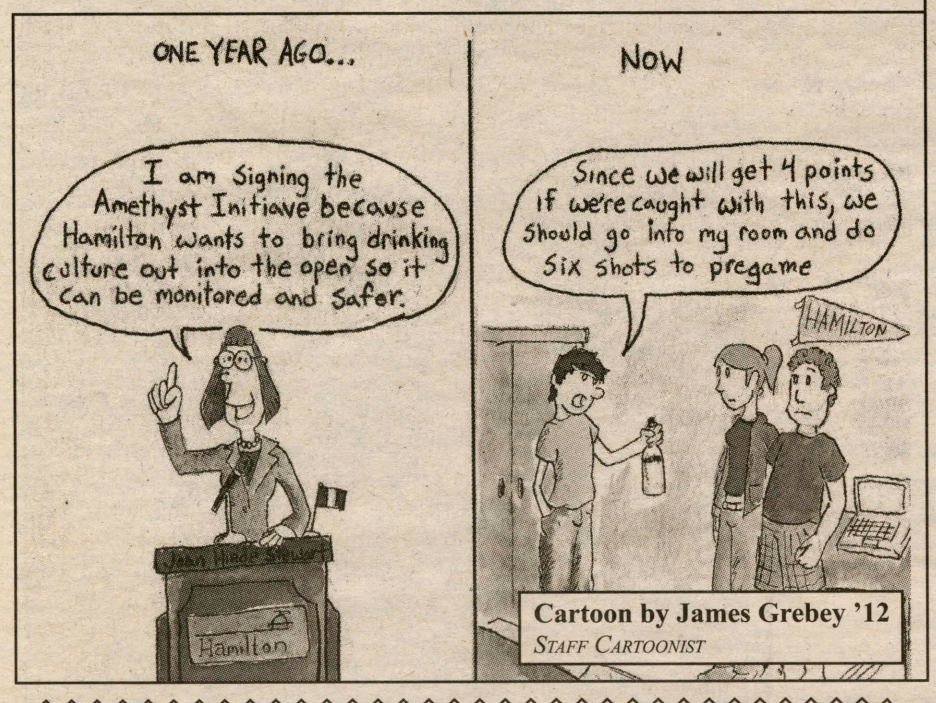
On Monday, Sept. 7 I participated in a Hamilton College rally held in response to several acts of derogatory language on campus. When we were little, we were told that "sticks and stones may break our bones, but words will never hurt us." It was a nice nursery rhyme, but it was not true.

Why does Hamilton College teach government, anthropology and literature? Because the words written and spoken by people like James Madison, Margaret Mead or Allen Ginsberg matter. They say something about the society in which those people lived. When a Hamilton College fraternity throws a party with the theme of "Golf Pros & Tennis Hos" it says that Hamilton College condones objectifying women.

Some people thought that the campus went too far in protesting these events. They argue that a letter from Dean Thompson, a formal apology from a fraternity, as well as a rally and discussion panel organized by student groups were overreactions. I would like to respectfully disagree. This is a college and that means that we are all trying to be better educated. When something happens that makes us uncomfortable, it is up to us to discuss it and maybe to condemn it. It is also up to us to defend our actions if we believe them to be just.

Obviously a poor choice of a party theme is miles away from an act of vandalism involving a derogatory word. I'm not that crazy to think that they are the same thing. But I think they go back to the root of the problem, which is that we've been desensitized to language. I'm not asking Hamilton to ignore freedom of speech; in fact, I'm imploring students to stand up and speak. Several students engaged in debate with me during the rally, and they had very valid points. Different perspectives deserve recognition, even when we don't agree with them. That's what tolerance is.

I have a sense of humor. I like parties. But I think that we at Hamilton are too clever to have to resort to offensive party themes. I think we're wise enough and mature enough to know that what we say and write is important. In any case, I'm asking people to care, whether they agree with me or not. Helen Keller once said "Science may have found a cure for most evils, but it has found no remedy for the worst of them all - the apathy of human beings." Have an opinion, make a statement. Rally against the rallies. Write a blog. Throw a "Protest Party". Now *there's* a theme I can get excited about.


ONE YEAR AGO...
I am signing the Amethyst Initiave because Hamilton wants to bring drinking culture out into the open so it can be monitored and safer.
Hamilton
NOW
Since we will get 4 points if we're caught with this, we should go into my room and do six shots to pregame
HAMILTON

Cartoon by James Grebey '12
Staff Cartoonist

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The use of offensive words was debated in the forum entitled "Words Matter."

No

by Kate Moore '12 & Allison Eck '12
Opinion Editors

Today we live in a world in which we cannot walk more than a few hundred yards without passing a blue emergency light. Unfortunately, in the real world, there are no buttons to push when we feel threatened. Nor are there professors with open doors and open arms, deans who send out emails in our defense or peers who want to discuss ways to make us feel safe. Instead, it is all on us - as individuals - to become secure, empowered members of society.

At Hamilton, opportunities for public demonstrations and community discussions abound to this end. It is true that individuals who committ ignorant and hateful acts cannot be tolerated. However, if someone calls you a derogatory word or scratches something offensive on your apartment door in a few years from now, you cannot run through the building and assemble a community forum to address the incident.

The "Words Matter" campus forum was planned prior to recent events, but preventing such situations in the future became the primary focus of the discussion. After two hours of debate, participants basically concluded that the best solution was to think about others' perspectives. This is impossible.

Though we are a community, we do not have common experiences, backgrounds or values. While we can try to be receptive, we can never fully appreciate how certain experiences can impact and even insult others. Offense is a matter of opinion. We could have an infinitely long discussion about what each of us finds hurtful.

To be clear, we do *not* condone the ignorant belief systems that fueled these acts. Our problem is the way in which these systems are being addressed. A campus-wide meeting to discuss hurt feelings is not only pointless, it is insulting. This is Hamilton College, not Hamilton Kindergarten. You don't like everyone, and not everyone likes you. This is a fact of life. One student at the Words Matter meeting said that he just "sucks it up" if he is offended. He has a point. We should not bury our feelings, and expressing ourselves publically can be cathartic, but this circular discussion ultimately solves nothing.

"Sucking it up" does not mean accepting the insult or the other person's viewpoint. It does mean that you are comfortable enough with *your* viewpoint. Take the example of the exchange that occurred at the meeting between a Roman Catholic student and the head of Rainbow Alliance.

The former stated that he felt threatened when people at gay rights rallies called him a bigot. He explained that his beliefs are grounded in doctrine and were no less valid than those of the activists. The woman from Rainbow Alliance replied that she would continue to try to convert him because she disagreed with his ideas. Their debate could have continued forever; it did not appear that either was about to be convinced anytime soon.

Our argument is that it would be more effective for these individuals to bring about change by leading their everyday lives. This man has strong faith and turns to his religion for moral guidance. From *his* perspective, he is not a bigot; he is merely following the rules that his community has set for him. His opposition is doing the same thing. This woman comes from a different community with different values, and she should be able to embrace her sexuality so that *she* knows that words such as "dyke" do not describe her in any way.

In order to effect change, we need to evaluate ourselves outside of context. Regardless of how others label us, we need to develop our own self-worth. Consider the "person" signs handed out during the Womyn's Center rally. We do not need the Womyn's Center to tell us that we are not objects. In the same way, a simple party invitation does not convince us that we are hos. We know who we are, and hurtful words directly against us cannot change that.

It is important to point out that self-awareness ceases to be as effective when we move beyond words. When harm becomes physical, we are dealing with something larger. But in regard to the idea that "Words Hurt," they only cause injury if you subscribe to the hate behind them.

We need to assert ourselves by being who we are. You are not just female, gay or black. But at this same time, let's admit that this is a big part of you. And sometimes it makes ignorant people see you as a lesser person. But just because they perceive you that way *does not make you a lesser person.* Prove your attacker wrong by being so much more than they think you are.

Creating awareness is not the way to do this. We know that racism and sexism exist. Yelling at us about it will only make people uncomfortable and bury their opinions lest someone find them offensive. Community-wide discussions are wholly unrealistic; Culture Education Center Director Professor Madeleine Lopez unintentionally proved our point when she said, "You will never have this again in your life, where something happens and you can immediately call up a lot of the people that you share living space with and have a discussion about it."

Outside of the Hamilton playpen, the grown-ups deal with bullies by brushing them off. They know that someone who verbally abuses them does not understand them, and therefore there is no truth in their words. It's not a battle worth fighting. No matter how many times you try to tell someone this, the world will not magically become full of puppies and daisies and children holding hands. Create your own happy place.

Living in a World of Wheat: Students' Dietary Restrictions

by Maeve Gately '12
Opinion Contributor

"Do you have a gluten free-desert?" I asked hopefully, scanning the special diets fridge at McEwen to no avail. The man helping me nodded, saying he had just the thing, and ran down to the basement while I waited excitedly, watching the dense squares of fudge brownies disappear from their plate with envy. He returned minutes later, and handed me a pint of chocolate…rice cream?!

Since my diagnosis with celiac disease this past summer, I have fought to obtain great-tasting alternatives to the foods I once enjoyed.

Celiac disease, a genetic intolerance to gluten, the protein found in wheat, barley and oats, affects nearly one percent of the population, and at least a dozen other members of the campus community. When I discovered I would have to go the rest of my life without eating bread, pasta, pizza and most deserts made from flour, I was devastated, and had horrifying visions of subsisting on nothing but rice and vegetables.

It was not long, however, before I discovered a myriad of gluten-free alternatives; rice pasta, gluten-free bread, brownie mix and even pizza crust, and returned to school relieved that I could go on eating as normal.

To my surprise and dismay, however, obtaining such items from the dining halls has been nothing short of a wheat-free war. Though the chefs themselves are kind and helpful, there seems to be a general state of confusion as to what people with wheat allergies can eat, and, upon requesting a gluten-free meal, I am often presented with one that is also free of meat, dairy, and eggs.

> ***"I long for the day when I can...find something I not only can eat, but cannot wait to eat."***

Though there are many simple alternatives to wheat that I am sure we would all enjoy, Bon Appétit has thus far failed to stock them. The burrito station in commons does not carry corn tortillas; the diner does not stock gluten-free burger buns or wraps; and the stir fry at McEwen uses wheat soy sauce in all of its dishes. The only products the dining halls do carry are rice breads and English muffins, but without a separate toaster in which to prepare them, they remain inedible.

Frustrated by the lack of appetizing food, I am forced to wait for a suitable meal while my friends eat theirs, and am invariably disappointed at what I finally get.

Surely in a campus of Hamilton's size and diversity, students with food allergies deserve better accommodations than these. Surely there must be an alternative to settling for bland, unappetizing meals or else risking anaphylaxis (or, in the case of celiac, cancer).

Wheat allergies are merely one of the many groups in need of special diets, along with lactose-intolerant, kosher and vegan students, for whom the dining services do not adequately provide, and I know I am not alone in lamenting this lack of accessibility. Hamilton provides accommodations for students with physical and learning disabilities, and I fail to see why this should not extend to those with food allergies.

I know I speak for everyone with special needs on this campus when I say that there is nothing I want more than to be like everyone else, and nothing is more central to one's day than eating. I long for the day when I can walk into a dining hall or campus event and find something I not only can eat, but cannot wait to eat.

Until then, however, you can find me busy in the basement of Kirkland, flipping corn quesadillas or preparing a batch of flourless brownies, refusing to settle for mediocrity.

Thumbs Up

The kid who wears the cape. Keep it up. While you're at it, could you cast some kind of spell to make it stay this sunny for the next 3 months?

Womyn's Center Opyn House – We don't need men! We don't need pens! And we sure as sh*t don't need E's!

Sailing Team – Hamilton covers Cayuga Lake with boatloads of eager seamen.

Mousetraps – Physical Plant installs boxes of poison glue around campus, deeming them safer to students than wooden traps baited with irresistible cheese. So sad, but so, so true.

Thumbs Down

Capo(aeiou)ra - Watching you fight is like watching two drunken townies slug it out outside the Rok.

Cluster flies: More annoying than your freshman year roommate's high school girlfriend. If only they too would just f*ck the entire hockey team and then never show up again.

McEwen Cheddar-Beef-Carrot Panini – GODDAMNIT GIVE ME BACK MY F*CKING DELIMEATS!

Capoeira – you thought this would end when Steve left, didn't ya?

Who Cares?

Words Matter: Apparently that doesn't apply to the phrase "I'm sorry."

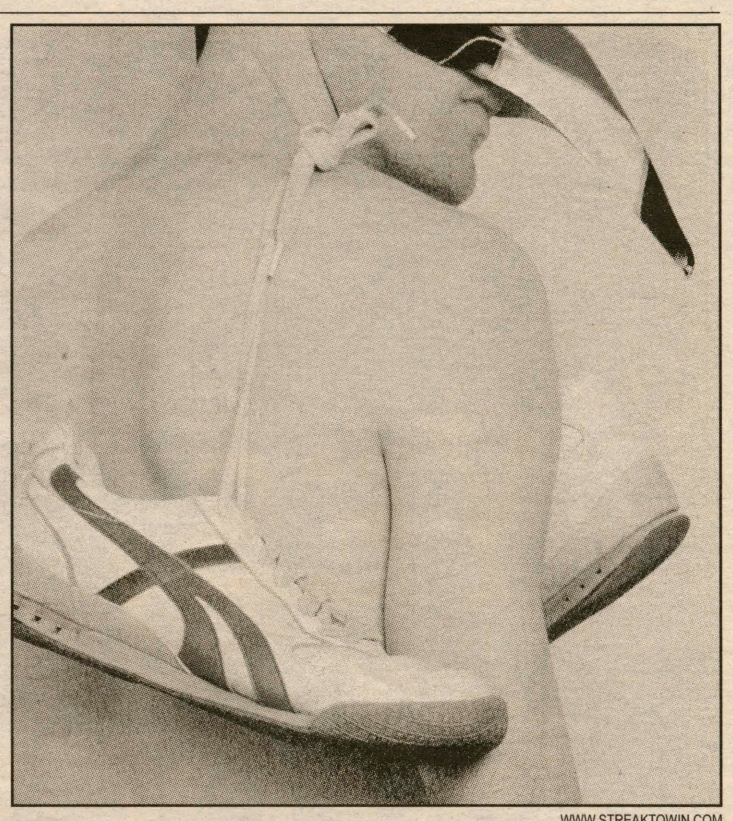
WHCL returns to the airwaves – replacing garbled static with hipster DJ's playing garbled static.

The Return of the Poster Gypsies: McEwen Breezeway is where I eat lunch. Take your goddamn mixed drink periodic tables and Bob Marley with pot leaf posters elsewhere.

Hogwarts at Hamilton tryouts - How to lose all credibility faster than a blast-ended skrewt. It's just like magic!

by Anthony DelConte '10, Nathan Fedrizzi '10, and Lesley Ryder '11

Disclaimer: The opinions expressed in this column are purely of a satirical nature, and are not representative of the views of *The Spectator* editorial board.



WWW.STREAKTOWIN.COM

Varsity Streaking Team May Lose Status as College Tradition

by Haley Riemer-Peltz '12
Opinion Writer

When I received Dean of Students Nancy Thompson's all-campus email entitled, "New Policies for the New Year," I scrolled down past the notifications about hard alcohol, open containers and dry campus during orientation. I arrived at the section of the email entitled "Streaking," and was shocked and dismayed to read the following decree: "Students who streak will be found responsible for lewd behavior and assigned four points."

Although I have absolutely no affiliation with the Hamilton College Varsity Streaking Team or naked people of any kind, I was particularly struck by Dean Thompson's ruling on this time-honored Hamilton tradition.

I especially took issue with Dean Thompson's statement that "while it [streaking] was never condoned, there may have been some confusion about the acceptability of that behavior." This annoyed me for two reasons—the not condoning streaking part, and the confusion part.

Although the administration technically does not allow streaking and campus safety continually attempts to impede the team's quest for free expression, the College's stance on streaking is not entirely clear.

Dean Thompson claims that streaking has never been condoned. My experience is that the administration both shuns the streakers to establish authority, and celebrates the streakers to draw more attention to the College.

Last spring, several of the Varsity Streaking alumni came back to the Hill to debut *Streak to Win*, a documentary of their streaking experiences at Hamilton. Although Hamilton did not contribute any funds toward the making of the film, the College hosted the film's screening in the Annex.

Following the showing of the film, many Hamilton students without any ties to the streaking team began sporting Streak to Win t-shirts. Tour guides mentioned the team to make their tours more memorable; the College received positive feedback and recognition because of the streaking team.

Other students have reported similar reactions to their first experience seeing the team.

"I visited a trillion liberal arts colleges in the States. They started to morph into the same one after a while...And then there was Hamilton. Turns out the school has a varsity streaking team, and that's what made the difference," Nelly Buchet-Deak '13 said.

I think a lot of people would agree that the streaking team makes Hamilton more memorable to prospective students trying to distinguish us from Colby and Bates. Building on this, the reason why I disliked Dean Thompson's assertion that the administration has never condoned streaking is that it seeks to punish students from whom they reap interest and advantage.

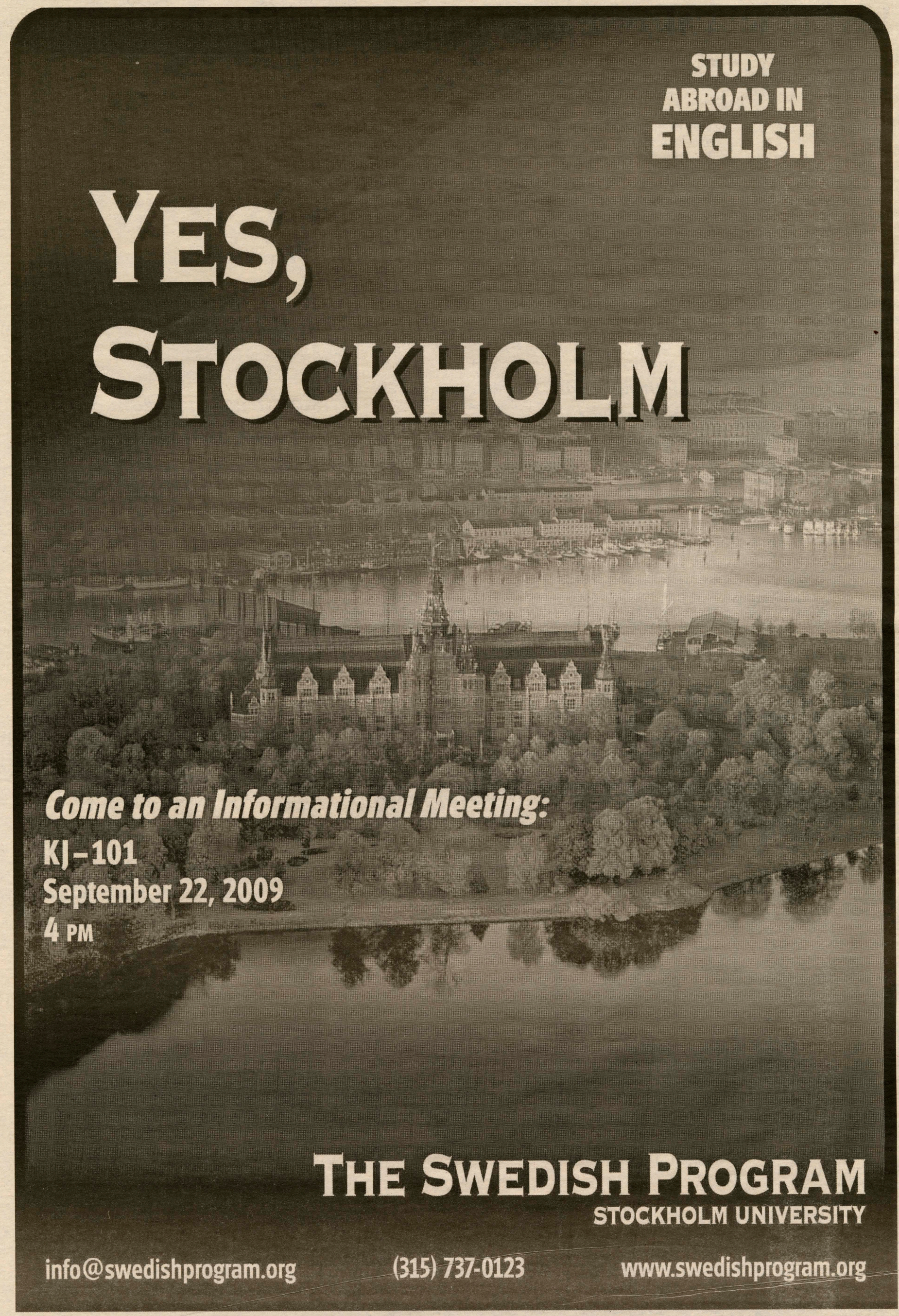
The other part of Dean Thompson's statement I disagreed with is her assumption that there "may have been some confusion" around the streaking policy. My question to her is, who is confused?

It's common knowledge that streaking is against "the rules," - that's what makes it interesting. That is why the team runs.

"I think it [the new streaking policy] makes sense," Pete Holzaepfel '05, a creator of *Streak to Win* said. "It ups the ante for streaking and makes it so that it's not something that is happening every day for every occasion."

The "confusion" Dean Thompson mentions does not belong to the students. The administration has always been confused about the team, and has therefore demonstrated conflicting attitudes on streaking.

If the administration continues to use the streaking team's character to the school's advantage, they need to adjust their policy. If they continue to praise the streakers for making Hamilton unique, they should expect people to get naked.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What's Growing On at the Community Farm

by Katrina Raebler '12
Features Writer

"We are de-flowering the basil," lectured Dave Hyman '12.

"You guys make gardening too sexual," complained Nick Costantino '12.

"What's not sexual about gardening? We are picking the sexual organs of plants; every fruit is an ovary, every seed is a sperm, just trying to reproduce in a harsh, harsh, adverse world," explained Grace Belkot '12.

The student-run Hamilton Community Farm, the half-acre vegetable garden located behind Ferguson, offers many life lessons. In addition to insight on reproduction, the farm promotes the benefits of eating locally.

The Community Farm works alongside Bon Appétit Food Service, the 1812 Garden and the Central Letherstocking Chapter of Slow Food USA. The 1812 Garden is a plot of the Community Farm created by the Food for Thought Seminar that features vegetables that would have been grown in this area about 200 years ago.

This past Monday, Commons and McEwen Dining Halls promoted the Slow Food movement by serving meals made entirely of vegetables grown in the Community Farm and other local organic farms. In order to prepare for the feast, 30 students gathered at the farm on Friday, Sept. 4 for a mass harvest. Within two hours, over 4,000 vegetables were picked and many more remain in the farm.

"It's eye opening to see the ability a small community has to provide for themselves even if the larger society demands that they depend on them. It's something great about Hamilton," Drew Christ '11 said.

Vegetables recently harvested include cabbages, celery, bell peppers, basil, carrots, cilantro, fennel, beans, okra and onions.

Monday's feast was by no means an end to the fall harvest. Bon Appétit strives to use locally grown vegetables in their cooking, and more often than not, Hamilton vegetables end up in our dining halls. The vegetables will keep growing through the end of September. Much remains to be done, as many varities weren't harvested on Friday.

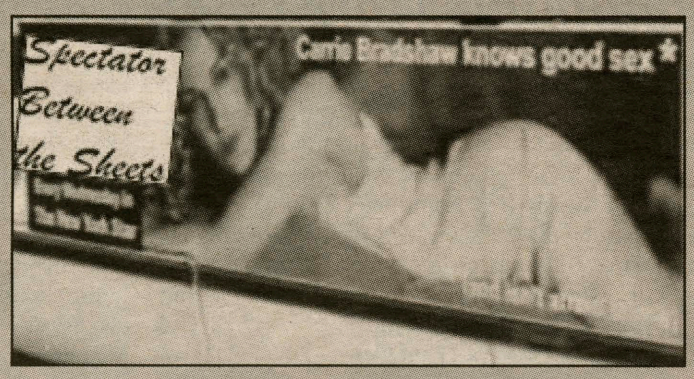
"Harvesting is all about being gentle and looking for something you've already seen. It's not hard. I encourage everyone to get involved," Callie Krumholz '10 said.

Harvest crew's times are: Wednesdays 4-6 p.m., Thursdays 7:30–9 p.m., Thursdays 4-6 p.m., and Fridays 9-11 a.m.. Anyone is welcome to just show up and participate.

"Gardening can be quiet and reflective or ridiculous," said Krumholz. Rumor has it that some students gardened naked in the rain. The farm board discussed whether this qualified as streaking and whether the students would be given four points if campus safety got their hands on their muddy, clotheless bodies. The consensus was that gardening was not speedy enough to be considered streaking.

The Community Farm's main purpose, however, is not to provide local food to the dining halls. It is to foster a sense of community and to teach people about the value of growing their own food and getting their hands a little dirty.

Another goal of the farm board is to bring local school groups in and not only teach them about the growing process, but also offer the farm as an inspiration for artwork and expression.



Like Sex? Want to write about it?

The Spectator **is looking for a new sex columnist (or several) for its weekly column, "Spectator Between the Sheets."**

Please send a sample column and a brief description of why you'd make a great sex columnist to ngrenfel@hamilton.edu.

Submissions are due Sept. 18th

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Hamilton Students Ask:
Nancy Thompson

PHOTO COURTESY OF NANCY THOMPSON

What do you do?

As Dean of Students, with my colleagues in the Division of Student Life, I work to support the educational mission of the college through the opportunities for learning that exist beyond the classroom. That's sort of an elaborate way of saying that I try to help students take full advantage of all aspects of their Hamilton experience.

What is your favorite part of your job?

It's really great when I can partner with students to find a creative way to address a problem or get something accomplished that will improve their experience. This is true whether it's an individual student or the student body.

Where is your office located?

My office is in the Elihu Root House, which is in the yellow house across from Bristol Center on College Hill Road.

Where can students find you on campus other than your office?

In Commons or McEwen at noon, Opus 1 or 2 at various times, sporting events, the Glen. It would be good if you found me in the fitness center more often. Starting next week I can be found in residence hall lounges with Dean Urgo on Wednesday evenings as one half of 'Two Deans, Four Ears and a Plate of Cookies.' Coming soon to a residence hall near you!

How did you choose to work at a college?

I have always loved the feel of a college campus. It's amazing to see and be a part of the transformation that many students experience.

Why Hamilton?

When I first came to Hamilton in 1986 it was because it seemed like a good place for my next logical professional step. As it turned out, I have been able to take many next logical professional steps at Hamilton and I have always found my job to be interesting, challenging and never boring (sometimes I think a little boring might be OK).

I am absolutely convinced about the value of a residential liberal arts education and I am very proud of the education that Hamilton provides.

What do you like most about Hamilton?

Our students. I find them to be smart, creative, generous, kind and funny. All students are not all those things at all times, but then again, neither am I.

What are some of your interests outside of Hamilton?

I have a wonderful husband and two daughters, ages 16 and 24, and I love to do almost anything with them. I'm a beekeeper (although I think I need to check in with an allergist before my next sting). I can ski, skate and sew -- not all at the same time and not as much lately as I would like. I love to travel.

Where did you go to college?

SUNY Geneseo.

What was your major?

Psychology.

What was your most memorable college class and why?

Persuasion. I learned to question anybody who is trying to sell me something - whether that thing is a thing or an idea.

What is your favorite thing to eat and drink at Cafe Opus?

Giant chocolate chip cookies and just plain coffee and a splash of half and half.

Sushi or stir fry?

Stir fry, heavy on the broccoli.

Light side or dark side?

My office was in KJ for 20 years, so my heart will always belong to the dark side.

If you could describe yourself in three words, what would they be?

Flexible, patient, steadfast.

If there was one thing you wish everyone knew about you, what would it be?

I'm human.

Do you have questions for

Dave Eng

Assistant Director of Student Activities?

Email them to hkeller or ngrenfel.

Students Take Action for a Greener Hamilton

by Meghan Woolley '13
Features Writer

In the excitement of a new year, there are many things to keep us busy: new classes and all the accompanying work, unlimited meal plans and all the accompanying trips to the gym, and, in the case of freshmen, trying desperately to remember all the names we learned during orientation. With all the craziness it's easy to walk by a light switch or recycling bin without thinking about what our actions on campus can mean for the environment.

Some groups on campus, however, are actively working to ensure that Hamilton is as environmentally friendly as possible. Steve Bellona of the Physical Plant (the one who's been sending you e-mails telling you to close your windows) has multiple goals to increase the college's sustainability.

PHOTOS BY CHRIS EATON '11

One major aspect of this is to make the buildings more efficient over time. This includes technology such as heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) units, which reduce the amount of energy needed by reusing heat and moderating outside air. Another improvement is better controlled lighting that uses occupancy censors.

Solar powered garbage compactors have also been placed around campus. The main purpose of these compactors is to reduce the volume of waste the college produces. Trash pickups are required eight times less often, saving fuel in addition to the material eight times as many garbage cans would use.

More recycling is another one of Bellona's goals. Last year, only about 18% of waste was recycled, but a plan for composting is in the works for October, which will hopefully help. "The fact is we do have finite resources," he said. If people "think environmentally," we can all make a contribution to improving sustainability.

Nat Duncan '12, co-president of Hamilton's Environmental Action Group (HEAG), also emphasized that students should be environmentally active. In its efforts to "effect positive environmental change on campus," HEAG works with ITS to promote more eco-friendly technology, has outreach programs to work with community members, especially children, and organizes the residence hall energy saving competitions, among other things.

Duncan encourages people to talk and think more about what being environmentally active means.

HEAG's meetings are open to all students and are held Tuesday nights at 7:30 in the Glen House. Duncan also intends to have a regular column published in *The Spectator*'s science and technology section.

Students are encouraged to read and comment on the Climate Action Plan, which can be found at http://www.hamilton.edu/sustainability/sustainabilityplan.html. This plan includes broad goals such as a 20% reduction of Hamilton's carbon footprint by 2015 and a zero emissions goal for 2050. In addition, it contains more specific plans to address the producers of emissions (the three largest being electricity, heating and air travel). For instance, more exact temperature controls will be used for heating this winter, and Emerson will be geothermal by next summer.

In order to achieve these goals, each member of the Hamilton Community needs to, as Duncan puts it, "do the obvious things that people think about but don't necessarily do." That means closing your windows, shutting down computers, turning off lights, remembering to recycle, and walking or riding a bike whenever possible." After all, Colgate is trying to reduce their emissions by 2050 too, and we can't let them beat us.

Rainbow Alliance Aims to Make Hamilton a More Open Community

by Jessica Brown '12
Features Writer

At the Campus Open House last Friday, it was apparent to new students and upperclassmen alike that Hamilton has a lot to offer in the way of student activities. With well over 75 groups of various kinds, there is something to meet even some of the most obscure interests.

One of these groups, the Rainbow Alliance, unites all students across the spectrum of interests, regardless of race, ethnicity, year, gender, sex, or sexuality.

Led by co-chairs Selena Carrion and Laura Mattison, both seniors, Rainbow is an organization that blends socialization with activism. The group's advisors are Shoshana Keller, associate professor of history, and Michelle Lemasurier, associate professor of mathematics.

What makes Rainbow so special is the fact that "it's an alliance," says Carrion. "Its mission is not only to provide a space for LGBTQ students to talk about their issues…but also [provide] straight students [the opportunity] to come and learn about those issues."

These issues include, but are not limited to, hate crimes, such as the car parked in Ferguson that was dented and had "fag" keyed into it during the first weekend on campus. A similar incident occured last Spring and possible responses to such occurrences are amongst the topics of discussion during Rainbow meetings.

The first step toward addressing such problems is a forum, such as this week's Words Matter, sponsored in part by the Rainbow Alliance. Hopefully, these discussions will foster an understanding of what certain words mean to individuals and will lead to a friendlier climate on the Hill. "Ideally, an alliance will be struck up and everyone on campus will understand the bigger issues," Carrion states.

PHOTOS BY CHRIS EATON '11

An organization such as the Rainbow Alliance is so important to Hamilton's campus because "it's still a new thing," claims Carrion. It may be "on the mainstream," but the multitude and nature of struggles the LGBTQ community face are not necessarily clear. "At Hamilton, we're here not only to learn academically," she continues, "but also learn about each other."

Beyond forums, other ways to further understanding include events such as last year's F to MBody, which combined a workshop about transgender people and a late night performance in the Barn by two transgender hip-hop/spoken word artists.

Rainbow has also hosted Taste the Rainbow, a campus-wide party, and Gay Prom, a version of your high school's prom for the members of the Alliance, complete with catered food and much more fabulous decorations.

Carrion hopes that LGBTQ students and their allies will come to future meetings. "They should use it as a vehicle, as a voice," she urges. "It's a resource."

The Rainbow Alliance meets Wednesdays at 9 p.m. in the Glen House, the building just past the Little Pub. The first meeting amassed an impressive number of new and returning members, but there is always room for more.

A Stranger in a Strange Land, Again

FROM WHERE I SIT
HAMILTON'S INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVES

In Spring 2009, a number of international students participated in Hamilton's Study Abroad Program. One has to remember that for international students, the experience of attending Hamilton College is in itself studying abroad. International students who choose to go abroad in their junior year do so for a variety of reasons. Many of them have visas that only last for four years, and once their visa expires, they have no choice but to return to their home countries. The freedom to travel when and where they want becomes more difficult both legally and financially. Therefore, many students are willing to accept the challenge of being "foreigners" in yet another foreign country because they have learned that out-of-country experiences strengthen their inner voice as well as their understanding of multicultural societies. The students return to the Hamilton campus wiser and more astute at creating meaning in life on a daily basis.

"From Where I Sit" is the ESOL column that presents the nonnative English speaker's point of view on the Hamilton experience. If you have a story that you would like to share, please email bbritthy@hamilton.edu.

Bianca Dragan '10: Romania

"Spending a semester in South Africa marked a shift in my consciousness as a privileged, white European woman. I remember the very day that I became white. I was given a ticket and a piece of paper, which had written on it 'white.' Then, I was told to go to the 'blankes - whites' only entrance. I was in front of the Apartheid Museum in Johannesburg, South Africa.

PHOTO COURTESY OF BIANCA DRAGAN '10

In order to illustrate the everyday reality, visitors to the museum are classified as either white or non-white. The visitors are permitted entry to the museum only through the small metal gate allocated to their race group. This way, the visitors experience for a few moments the base of all apartheid laws: race classification.

Through experiences similar to the one at the Apartheid Museum, I learned about the reality of the South African people that is mind-blowing, overwhelming and exciting. While refining it to make sense in my life, I found South Africa to be similar to a daguerreotype in the sense that it is unique, with no accurate reproduction of its reality possible in a picture or in words.

Like a daguerreotype, its image of reality can be both negative and positive, but in the proper light, a daguerreotype's mirrored surface of the metal plate can reflect the image and make it appear black or white. One needs the curiosity and sensitivity, the commitment and the time to find the proper light and the specific angle for viewing the South African's authentic reality.

Once these elements are found, one also becomes aware of the incredible detail a daguerreotype provides of the subject, one of its greatest advantages. One cannot settle or reconcile the mind with the assumption of a primitive and static negative daguerreotype of Africa, but rather, one must choose to look closely at South Africa's extraordinary detailed and complex reality, with admiration and enthusiasm.

South Africa continues to be such a worthwhile study abroad and life changing adventure."

Daniel Barrios '10: Colombia

PHOTO COURTESY OF DANIEL BARRIOS '10

"To study, live and work in Denmark and in South Africa opened my eyes to what the world has to offer me. In both countries, I left remarkable friends, co-workers and host families.

It is difficult to express and summarize all the feelings and the memorable experiences from my time abroad. What I can say is that both countries surpassed my expectations.

In the northern hemisphere, I found Denmark to be one of the most organized and liberal countries that I have ever lived in. If you have the opportunity to visit it, please watch out for those bicycles going faster than the cars, and take the time to enjoy looking at the children walking in their winter spacesuits in Copenhagen.

In the southern hemisphere, I found South Africa to be a country full of spectacular scenery and welcoming people. The country's natural beauty and unique culture made me smile everyday of my stay. If you ever travel to Cape Town, enjoy driving along Table Mountain, but do not forget to watch at least one sunset in Camps Bay. Please embark upon those life-changing situations where you are not seen as the annoying tourist, but as a Hamilton student studying abroad."

Clockwise from top right: Daniel Barrios '10, middle; Ana Maria Diaz '10, middle; Axel Azcue '10; Bianca Dragan'10, right.

Ana Maria Diaz '10: Colombia

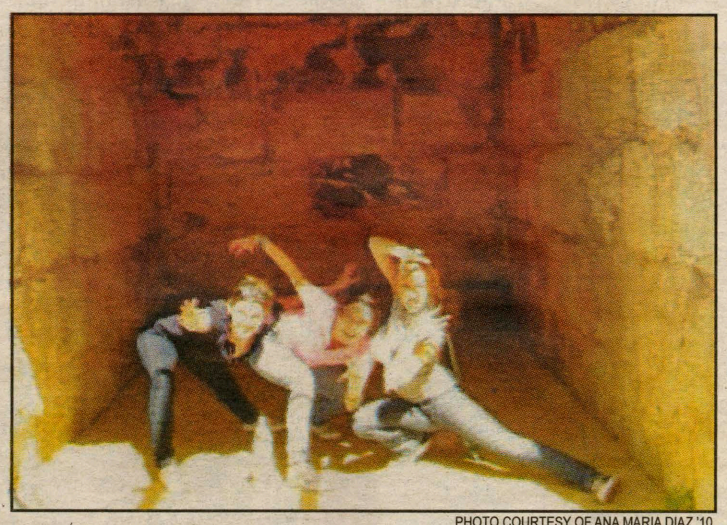


PHOTO COURTESY OF ANA MARIA DIAZ '10

"Sicily is an incredibly vibrant and peculiar place (very different from mainland Italy). My experience abroad in Ortigia, Sicily, was a reverie full of colors, textures and flavors.

Studying in Ortigia, a little island off the coast of Siracusa, I experienced a chronological tour of some of the most influential periods in history, as well as one of the most complex gastronomic adventures.

Every day for five months I lived within a walled city and I walked the narrow medieval streets, which led to a Greek temple with spectacular mosaics within a Roman city. I passed by a Norman castle with traces of Byzantine and Arab beauty, adorning the picturesque Mediterranean.

Totally immersed in the city, the aromas and flavors of the typical Mediterranean dishes were accompanied by amusing Sicilian sea chants that the fishermen and families in the market would sing.

Though I was a foreigner within the American study abroad program and a foreign in a foreign country, again, I did not feel like a stranger in a strange land. Ortigia reminded me of Colombia, my home."

Axel Azcue '10: Mexico

PHOTOS COURTESY OF AXEL AZCUE '10

"The experience I had in Oman and around the Persian Gulf was radically different to anything I would have lived elsewhere. I cannot think of any other place where I have felt safer, more welcomed and more comfortable. The Omanis are one of the most hospitable people the world has to offer. If you ever stop there, be prepared to consume lots of coffee and dates, which will keep you away from the heat... for a little while."

Trolius and Cressida Tells Tale of Love, War & Betrayal

by Katy Mastrocola '13
ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT WRITER

Gabe Hage '12 and Diana Stern '10 as Diomedes and Cressida, respectively, in Shakespeare's tragedy.

You may have noticed some students fighting each other with giant sticks around campus recently. This was neither a martial arts demonstration nor a new "let's run around and fight each other with sticks because that is epic" club, although it is an awesome idea. The stick fighting was actually stage combat training for Untitled@Large's production of William Shakespeare's *Troilus and Cressida*, which was performed on September 5 and 6 outside the Bristol Center.

For those of you who don't know, Untitled@Large is Hamilton's student theater troupe. The members perform in, direct and even write their own plays. Untitled@Large puts on a Shakespeare play every year, and they chose well with this year's performance of *Troilus and Cressida,* directed by Stephen Michel '10, who was also responsible for the fight choreography. The production was stage managed by Mary Lehner '12.

Not savvy on Shakespeare? You don't have to be to appreciate the emotionally charged and action-packed story of *Troilus and Cressida*. The story takes place during the Trojan War, when the tension between the Trojans and Greeks is at its peak.

A Trojan prince named Troilus, played by Pete Oliver '12, escapes the harsh world of war for a while as he finally musters the courage to develop a romantic relationship with Cressida, played by Diana Stern '10. Like Shakespeare's most famous lovers, Romeo and Juliet, Troilus and Cressida soon find their light-hearted romance ruined by feuding. Cressida is forced to become a Greek prisoner of war. She finds solace in Diomedes, played by Gabe Hage '12, the only Greek warrior who feels sympathy for her. When Troilus finds out that Cressida has been unfaithful, he is heartbroken and becomes bent on revenge against Diomedes. The play then shifts from a light-hearted romantic comedy into a dark, epic battle centered on revenge.

And the battles are indeed epic. To the sound of drums, warriors clash with giant sticks in a hectic romp around the Bristol Center. The roars and intense rage of the cast makes the audience want to join in as well; "ooohs" and "ahhhs" were heard as sticks smashed against each other. One of the most intense battles is between Troilus' brother, Hector, played by James Greisler '10, and Achilles, played by Allison McLaughlin '11, whose fiery rivalry was built up slowly throughout the play. To reveal the victor would be to ruin the ending, however, and a very tragic ending at that.

Nevertheless, the actors took a play that was tragic and turned it into something fun. One of the most notable attributes of the cast of *Troilus and Cressida* is the amount of girls who were cast as tough, manly men. If you're thinking that a girl can't pull off the demeanor of a Greek hero, you are totally wrong because these girls kicked a lot of butt, and it was obvious that they had a lot of fun playing the guys. The entire cast did a phenomenal job at setting the mood for each scene, transitioning between comedy, tragedy and action flawlessly.

ALL PHOTOS BY CHRIS EATON '11

Performing a Shakespearian tragedy set in ancient Troy is no easy task, but Untitled@Large not only put on an enthralling performance, but fit in some really impressive fight scenes as well. "It's a great introduction to the theater department at Hamilton," says Untitled@Large member Ashlyn Razzo '11. The spectacular performance of *Troilus and Cressida* has hopefully earned many new members for the group, who will continue to put on exciting plays at Hamilton.

Rosi Golan and Panda Band Find the Right Notes

by Taylor Coe '13
ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT WRITER

"Once you know what you want to do, delve into it," was the simple piece of wisdom that Rosi Golan gave me. Having interviewed her, it's clear that this straight advice is the thread she has followed. At age 20, with no certain future, she felt her life was going nowhere, so she took her love of music and locked herself in a room eight hours a day with a guitar she didn't know how to play. Six weeks later, she was playing at her first open mic. For the past few years, Golan has been relentless—touring constantly and self-releasing her first album, *The Drifter and the Gypsy,* last November. Currently, she is working on songs for a new album and is just beginning another cross-country leg of touring that will take her to California by early winter.

Last Thursday night, Golan and her guitarist/back-up singer,m Jake Phillips, played a wonderful set of 13 songs in the Fillius Events Barn. Her gentle opening number, with not much more than acoustic guitar and her exquisite voice, came as a shock to the audience after the Joshua Panda Band's rousing send-off, but soon the crowd settled into her calmer vibe. All sat in rapt attention through the hour-long set and were often hesitant to applaud after each song; the spell the song had cast was almost better felt in silence than in the rumble of clapping. She worked through the tracks of her first album, including the songs "Hazy" and "Been a Long Day," both featured on *One Tree Hill* this past season, an event that Golan described as both a fantastic way to have her music heard and a "great way to finance touring."

Before Rosi Golan's performance, however, we heard from the Joshua Panda Band, based in Brattleboro, Vermont. Throughout the sound-check that I was fortunate enough to watch, the five-piece band—lead singer/acoustic, electric/back-up vocals, standing bass, percussion and piano—joked around and had a great time. To my delight, they proved just as amusing in front of the audience. In between songs about shooting pastors and sitting in jail cells (for some major marijuana possession), they made ill-formed movie references ("We don't need no stinkin' guitars!") and told crude jokes that involved both medical problems and lettuce.

Nearly 200 people were excited and spellbound by the Joshua Panda Band and Rosi Golan. If you love music, this is the sort of event worth going to see. The next coffeehouse will be with Joey Ryan on September 24. There is a free single, "Nothing But You," on his website—www.joeyryan.net. Whether or not you love acoustic and country, there is a tremendous joy to be witnessed in these performances. We may have the dream, but these people are living it.

Brother Ali to Bring Rap Stylings to Campus

PHOTO COURTESY OF TRAVIS ROSENBLATT '11

Innovative artist Brother Ali comes to the Hill for the first major concert of the year, Friday at the Tolles Pavilion.

by David Biel '13
ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT WRITER

It has been quite a busy year for Brother Ali. In March, the Minneapolis-based rapper released "The Truth Is Here EP," a nine-song disc that is the most critically-acclaimed release of his decade-long career. Metacritic, a website that calculates ratings for albums based on reviews from different music publications, announced that the "EP" holds a score of 86, becoming the fourth-highest-rated record of the year. On September 22, he will release "Us," his first full-length album in two years. On September 11, Ali, along with fellow rappers Busdriver and Abstract Rude, will stop by Clinton to perform at Hamilton's very own Tolles Pavilion.

Growing up in the late '80s and early '90s, a time when N.W.A., the Beastie Boys and LL Cool J spurred the development of hip-hop, Brother Ali's life was defined by the then-growing genre and culture. Ali, whose birth name is Jason Newman, spent a large part of his childhood breakdancing, creating beats, and DJing, and eventually started rapping and writing his own music in his early teen years. Ali, in an interview with *Pause Magazine* in 2008, said: "Rap has always been a part of my life. Not just something I like, not just a hobby. It has an effect on my life, on the way I live, the choices I've made and the person I became over the years, and even still, now."

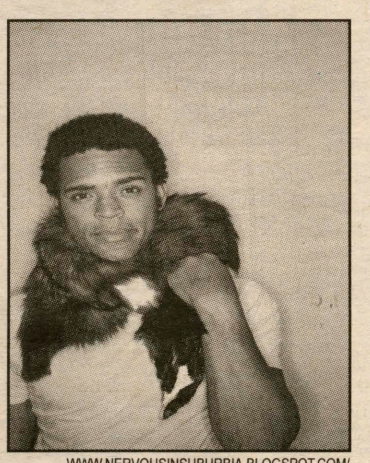
Musically speaking, Brother Ali isn't your average T.I. or 50 Cent. In fact, he isn't like most of the mainstream artists in today's age of lightweight ringtone-rap; Brother Ali is often compared to legendary MCs Rakim and Chuck D of Public Enemy, who both rose to stardom more than 20 years ago. Like those two rappers, Ali favors using rap music to speak passionately about social matters from an underdog perspective, an approach that has brought him both praise and, at times, controversy. Ali's most notable encounter with the latter came in 2007, when Verizon dropped their sponsorship of the rapper after the release of the song "Uncle Sam Goddamn," which severely criticizes the treatment of the impoverished by the United States government.

What also separates Brother Ali from the majority of today's hip-hop and rap is that, when one listens carefully to his music, one can hear the influence classic blues has on his compositions. For example, in 2007's "Take Me Home," when Ali sings "And I promise if I take you home, /I'll sing you a song/ Never leave me alone" on the chorus, he not only writes like vintage Muddy Waters, but sings like him, too. And with "Uncle Sam Goddamn," the instrumental music that backs Ali's verses mimics the great Howlin' Wolf.

So when Brother Ali stops by Hamilton this Friday, don't miss the chance to see a true rap artist who looks to be just entering the prime of his musical career.

PHOTO BY MARIE MENDOZA

Abstract Rude (above) and Busdriver (below) will join Ali on stage at the concert, Friday at 8 p.m. in Tolles Pavilion



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Probability of Swine Flu Epidemic Low

Government, Schools Still Taking Precautions Including Vaccine, Quarantining Students

by Ben Trachtman '12
Science & Technology Writer

The swine flu pandemic may not be as terrifying as we once thought. Scientists believed that the onset of colder weather and the beginning of the school year would mark a new explosion of the pandemic virus and that it could even mutate into a "superbug" when combined with the seasonal flu. Despite recent findings that the odds of a superbug mutation are slim, the federal government is bracing for the worst. Although a vaccine is currently in production, it will not be ready until approximately mid-October.

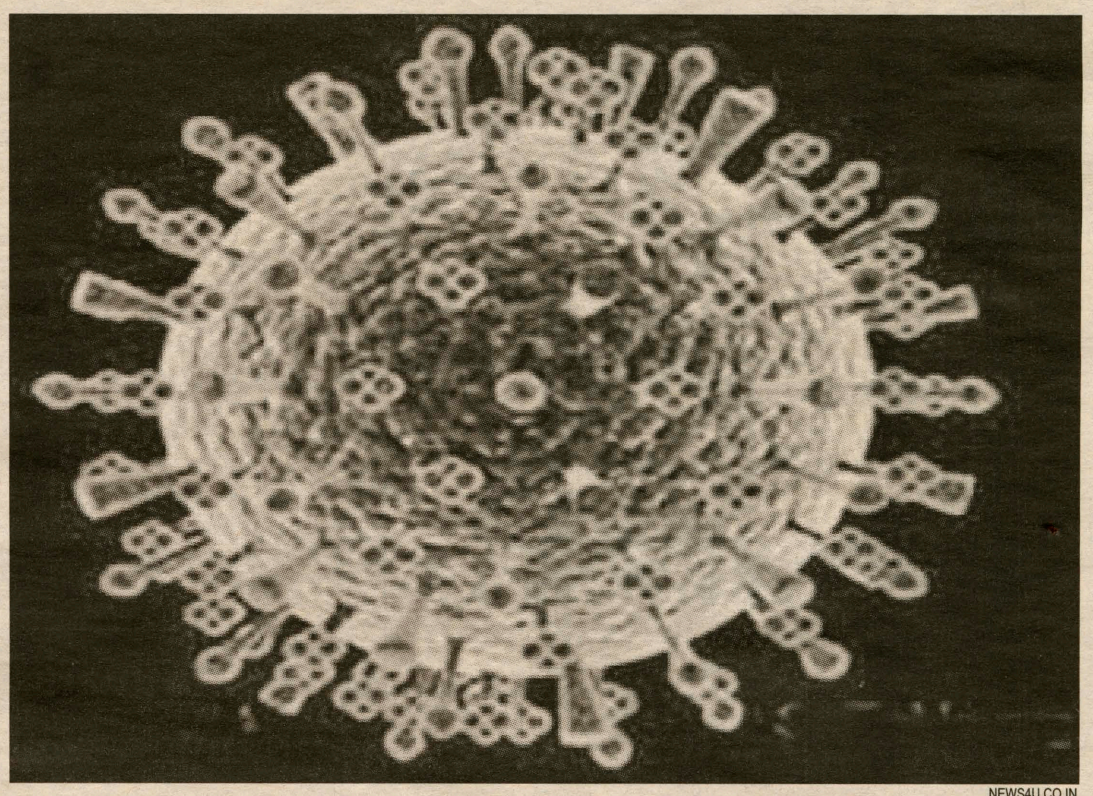
Researchers at the University of Maryland exposed ferrets to a combination of the swine flu virus, or H1N1, and two strains of the seasonal flu virus to see if the virus would mutate into a superbug. The swine flu virus was the most dominant strain of the three and caused slightly more severe symptoms than the seasonal flu, but failed to mutate. While this study suggests that the H1N1 virus is unlikely to mutate further, the disease in its current state is not to be taken lightly.

Schools and college campuses are some of the primary concerns regarding the spread of the disease. Because swine flu is a new mutation of the influenza virus, very few people have developed an immunity to it; children and young adults seem especially susceptible to the disease. According to Eddie Hedrick, the emerging infections coordinator with the Department of Health, the average age of those hospitalized is 20, making college campuses prime targets for the pandemic. When asked how she felt about a possible outbreak of the virus at Hamilton, Catherine Boyd '12 said, "It's a pretty terrifying concept. We're all in such close quarters here, it seems like if one person were infected, the entire campus could get it within a few days."

To try to combat the spread of the infection, the city of New York is requiring students in the city to get the swine flu vaccine. New York City and its school system was hit particularly hard by the pandemic in the spring, with the Center for Disease Control reporting 804 hospitalizations and 32 deaths. Several other organizations are strongly recommending widespread vaccinations, including the Obama administration.

Government officials have estimated that the death toll of the pandemic in the United States could be as high as 90,000—over twice the number of casualties of a standard flu season. The Obama administration is stressing preparation on the individual level as well as the federal level, calling the virus a "national security challenge."

Fortunately, we are able to look at how nations in the southern hemisphere have handled the pandemic in cold weather. In Australia, there have been 32,415 confirmed cases of swine flu and 128 flu-related deaths, with several thousand more across South America and Africa. Despite the high number of infections, each country was able to contain the outbreak. Given the benefit of examples, time to prepare and a vaccine in the works, the United States should be able to handle a pandemic in spite of the cold weather.



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The probability that the H1N1 virus, above, could combine with the seasonal flu virus and mutate into a "superbug" is now considered to be lower than previously thought.

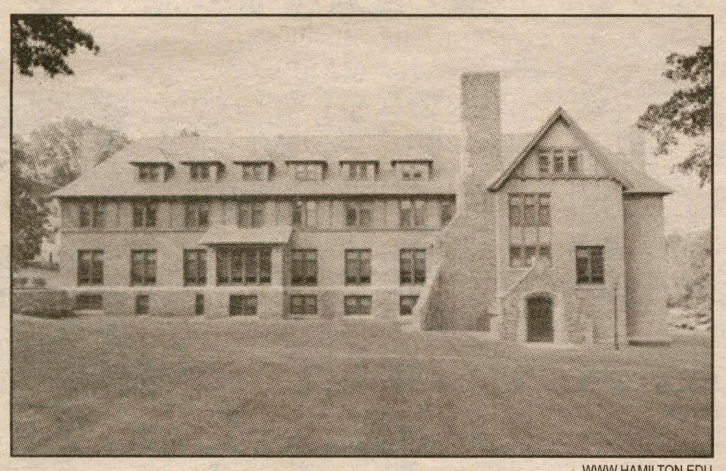
A mutation in the virus - which could result in an increased ability to spread, a higher fatality rate or immunity to a vaccine - could prove catastrophic. Fortunately, it seems that the probability of a mutation is low and the federal government is prepared for an outbreak on the scale that has been seen in the southern hemisphere. In spite of all of the government's preparation, a resurgence of the disease in this country seems inevitable and the most vulnerable areas remain schools and colleges. In the end, the spread of the disease comes down to the individual. Use common sense measures, like hand washing and avoiding contact with others if you develop any symptoms, to prevent transmission of the virus. While these may only be a stop-gap solution before the vaccine becomes available, they are helpful in stopping the spread of diseases, whether that be the swine flu, the seasonal flu or just the common cold.

Cool and Green: Geothermal Air Conditioning on Campus

by William McIvor '12
Science & Technology Writer

While not true for most of the year, the past few weeks have seen temperatures that will be remembered longingly in the coming months. Opening the door to Skenandoa, the only air conditioned dorm on campus, invites a refreshing reminder of wintery climates to come. Those who follow campus news may remember that Skenandoa was awarded a Silver LEED certification by the United States Green Building Council. How, then, is this air conditioned dorm the only LEED certified building on campus? Hamilton decided to show its commitment to environmental sustainability and invest the resources required for such a project.

Built in 1922, the former Psi Upsilon chapter house was rededicated as the Skenandoa House in 2004 after extensive renovations. The name honors the Oneida Indian chief of the same name, a friend of Samuel Kirkland, who founded the Hamilton-Oneida Academy in 1793, which later became Hamilton College in 1812. At the time of certification in 2007 only 12 other buildings in upstate New York were Silver LEED Certified, and Skenandoa House was the oldest structure among them.



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The air conditioning in Skenandoa, a LEED certified building, is provided with a geothermal system.

Achieving LEED certification of this, or any, building is not easy, and projects must meet a slew of requirements in many categories. Some places the Green Building Council looks for certification are in the site of the building, water and energy efficiency and materials used in construction of

*see **Skenandoa**, page 16*

Wacky Facts: Our Solar System

by Julia Litzky '12
Science & Technology Editor

The particles that make up Saturn's Rings range in size from as small as a grain of sand to as large as a skyscraper.

The Earth orbits around the sun at a speed of 66,700 mph.

On Venus, the sun rises in the West and sets in the East because Venus spins in the opposite direction from the other planets.

The surface temperature of the sun is about 6,000 degrees Celsius.

The density of Saturn is less than that of water, meaning that it would float.

Some scientists think that the ice that covers Jupiter's moon Europa may be over an ocean that could be up to 31 miles deep.

The surface of Venus is 800 degrees Farenheit because the carbon diozide in the atmosphere traps heat.

Because of surface tension, all free-floating liquids in space will form into a sphere.

The only recorded months without a full moon are Feb. 1865 or in Feb. 1999.

There are one in five billion odds of being killed by space debris.

The largest volcano in the solar system is on Mars. Olympus Mons is 370 miles across and 15 miles high.

A day on Pluto is about the length of a week on Earth.

Ganymede, one of Jupiter's moons, is the largest moon in the solar system, with a diameter of 3,280 miles. It is larger than the planet Mercury, which has a diameter of only 3,031 miles.

Loss of Elms "Devastating" to Hamilton Campus

Wertimer, Root, Grant and Keehn Shaped Campus Landscape That is Now Threatened by Disease

by Elijah LaChance '10
Science & Technology Editor

"Twas in a shady Avenue, where lofty Elms abound – And from a Tree there came to me a sad and solemn sound, that sometimes murmur'd overhead, and sometimes underground," writes Thomas Hood in his poem, "The Elm Tree." In 1949, Hamilton boasted 139 of these dignified and mysterious trees. Now there are only three. The loss of the American elms on campus ranks as the saddest chapter in the arboreal history of Hamilton's campus. Terry Hawkridge, assistant director of grounds, horticulture and arboretum at the Physical Plant, calls the loss of these trees "the most devastating thing ever to happen to Hamilton." This disaster, however, is only one segment of the intriguing larger picture of the history of the trees on the College grounds, which involves many of Hamilton's most illustrious personalities.

In 2005, the late Sidney Wertimer, longtime professor of economics and provost of the College from 1975-1980, wrote on the history of trees on the Hill after a long-standing and historic cucumber magnolia in front of Bristol Campus Center had to be removed. He writes, "When we [Wertimer and his wife, Eleanor] came to Hamilton in 1952, the number and variety of trees on campus impressed me." Wertimer began sketching a plot of the trees on the main quadrangle and became acquainted with Grace Root, who "showed me the rather detailed map of the campus trees that her late husband, Edward Wales Root, [the first art lecturer at Hamilton College, and the namesake of the Root dormitory on the Kirkland side of campus] had drawn."

Wertimer extends the history of connections between Hamilton's most famous figures and it's arboreal heritage a generation further. He writes, "Senator Elihu Root… took a great interest in the grounds. He had a great row of white pines and Norway spruce trees planted just west of Miller Road to mark the western edge of the campus ("so no one could look down on Hamilton") and a row of mugo pines east of that road." Ironically, the pines were removed in the mid-1990s, specifically because they obscured the view of the campus.

When the Bristol Campus Center was built in the late 1960s, another arboreal chapter unfolded. Both Grace Root and General Ulysses S. Grant III, who was then a resident of the Elihu Root House, opposed the location of the new building. The location was moved 50 feet from its original proposed site in order to protect the cucumber magnolia that was eventually removed in 2005. The final decision to move the proposed site was made in dramatic fashion, when Grant Keehn '21, then Chairman of the Board of Trustees, literally moved the stakes outlining the proposed building. As a further gesture of protest against the construction, General Grant – according to Wertimer – planted three trees in the front yard of the Elihu Root House to obscure his view of Bristol. The trees remain to this day, and if you walk out the front door of the Elihu Root House, the trees fully block any sight of Bristol.

Through it all were the elms, huge trees with naturally high and spreading canopies, each 80-110 feet tall. As Hawkridge explained, "An elm grows up like a vase… Nothing grows like an elm." Unfortunately, Dutch elm disease, a fungal disease spread by the elm bark beetle, decimated the American elm population at Hamilton in the 1970s. Wertimer writes, "During my years… as provost of the College (and indeed before), there appeared a melancholy item in the Physical Plant budgets for the removal of dead American elms (*Ulmus Americana*). During those years, about a hundred of these magnificent tall trees with few lower branches died of the Dutch elm disease and had to be removed."

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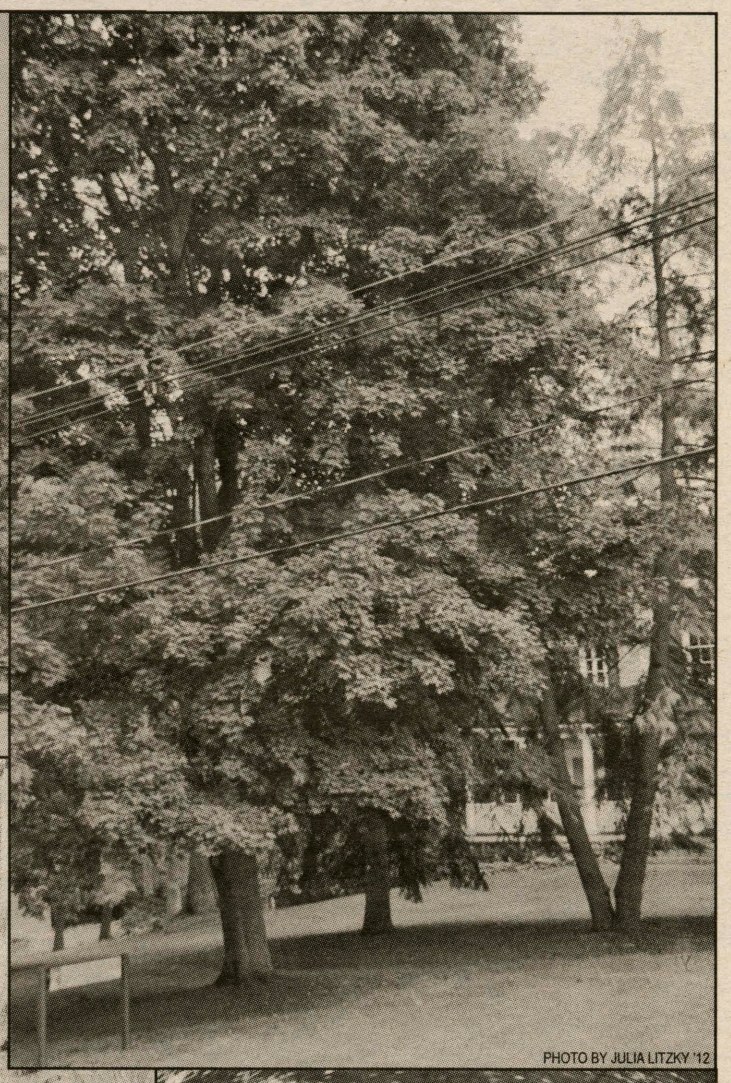
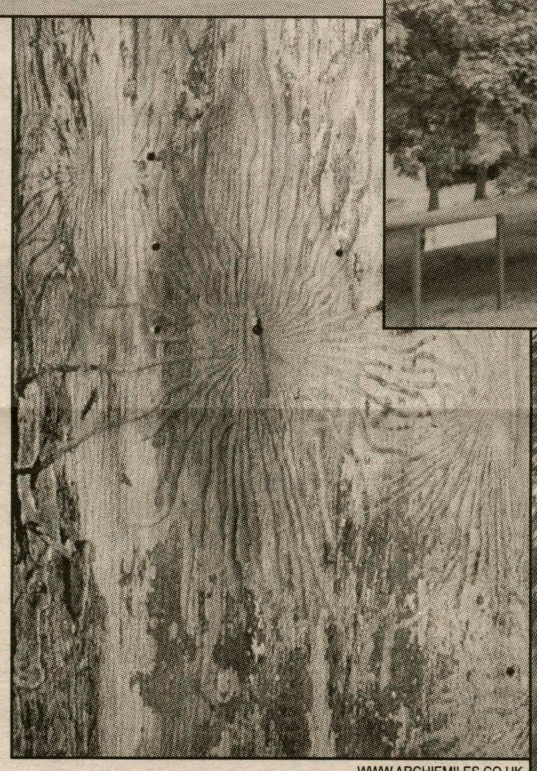


PHOTO BY JULIA LITZKY '12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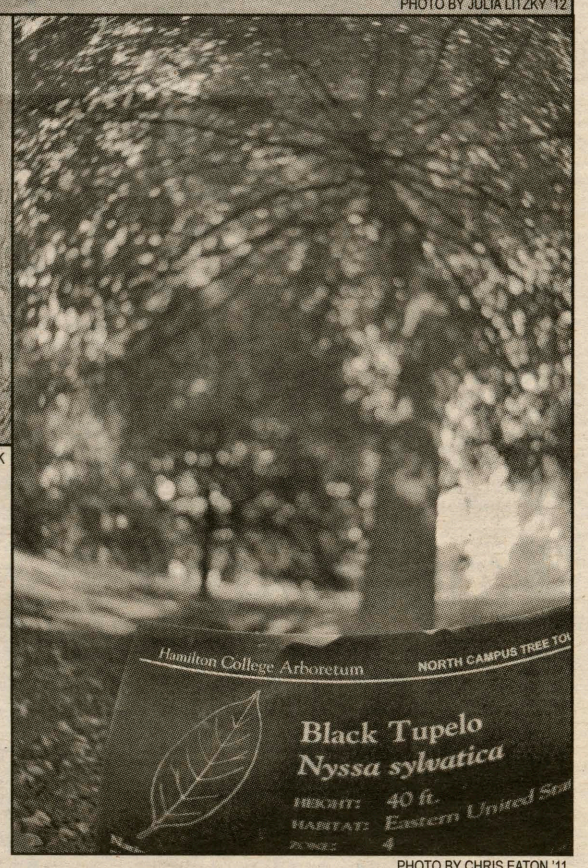
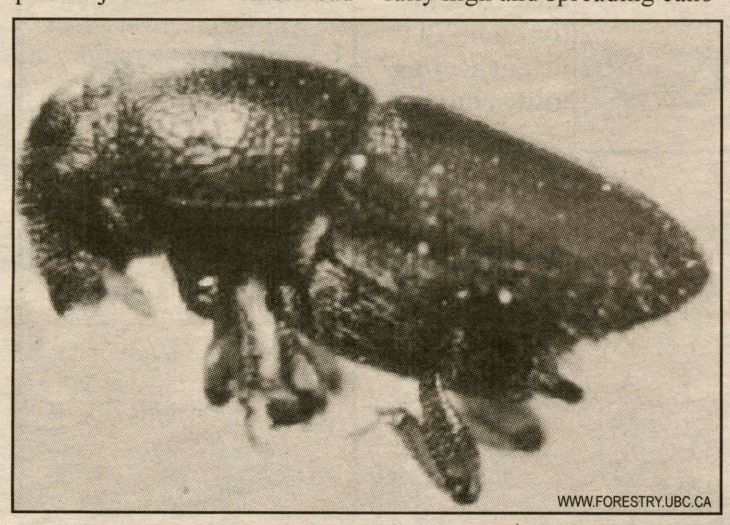


PHOTO BY CHRIS EATON '11

Dutch Elm Trees (top left) have been threatened recently by Dutch Elm Disease, the effects of which are pictured bottom left. Notable trees on campus include the three Ulysses S. Grant III had to block his view of the Bristol Campus Center (top right), and the Black Tupelo (bottom left), one of Professor Wertimer's favorites. Due to his influence, many were planted on campus, including the one pictured, referred to as the Wertimer Tupelo.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The Bark Beetle (below) spreads Dutch elm disease.

In addition to the lost beauty of the elms, Hawkridge explained their practical value for the campus. "There is a twenty degree difference between sun and shade," he pointed out, saying the gargantuan elms draped their canopies over the tops of buildings around the Hill, making them cooler in the summer and limiting snow damage in the winter. "Have you ever wondered why some of the buildings on campus get so hot on warm days?" he asked. "They were supposed to be covered by elms."

The campus has changed a great deal since the days of the historic Roots, Grants and Keehns. As Hood writes in "The Elm Tree," "The Scene is changed! No green Arcade, no Trees all ranged a-row – but scattr'd like a beaten host, dispersing to and fro; with here and there a sylvan corse, that fell before the foe." The trees on campus have changed. They are younger, with fewer memories and more possibilities. Out of the tragedy of Dutch elm disease has sprung a new campus, with Physical Plant working over the decades to construct and protect an arboreal landscape current students will treasure when they return to the Hill many years from now, and around which new generations of Hamiltonians will tell their stories.

Colbert's Namesake Treadmill Sent to Space

Space Shuttle *Discovery* Successfully Launched, Will Deliver Treadmill, Mice to Space Station

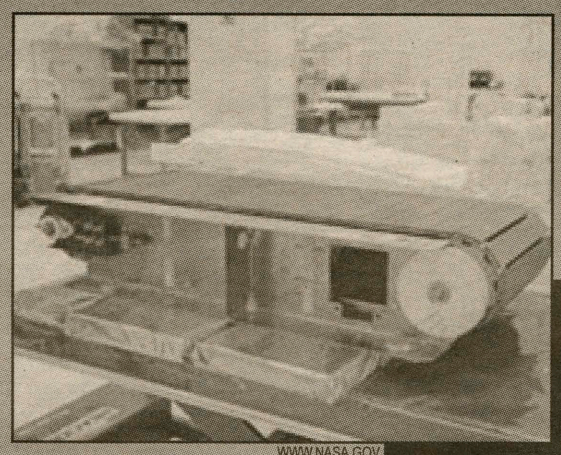
by Yinghan Ding '12
Science & Technology Writer

Lightning flashed far in the distance. A bright star lit up the sky of Cape Canaveral, Florida, for five minutes on Friday, Aug. 28, 2009. It was NASA's space shuttle *Discovery* lifting off from the Kennedy Space Center. After thunderstorms and fuel valve problems caused two failed launch attempts, NASA successfully sent *Discovery* into orbit on Friday with seven astronauts on board. The trip's goal was to deliver about 17,000 pounds of gear to the International Space Station, which was soaring more than 220 miles above the Indian Ocean when *Discovery* took off. This gear included a five-million-dollar treadmill and a Mouse Hotel, a special residence for six mice who accompanied the astronauts. However, controversy remains as to whether pouring such a large amount of money into such costly space missions is truly worthwhile.

Discovery's most prominent payload was the treadmill, named after the famous comedian Stephen Colbert. It was only a consolation prize for Colbert, since his original goal was to have a room in the International Space Station named after him. His proposal won the online vote for christening rights of a space station room, but NASA nevertheless rejected his idea. Instead, NASA named the new room Tranquility in honor of the 40th anniversary of man's first moon landing. Colbert joked about the treadmill, saying that it would be very useful for "all those chubby astronauts." Interestingly enough, the official name for the treadmill is the Combined Operational Load Bearing External Resistance Treadmill, COLBERT for short. The treadmill was delivered in more than 100 pieces, and will be put together sometime in the next month.

Accompanying the seven astronauts was a team of six intrepid mice. They are part of an Italian study investigating the effects of micro gravity on bone loss, and how to extend the length of time an astronaut could remain in space. Three of the six space mice have a special gene that combats osteoporosis, a condition that leads to bone loss over time, resulting in weak, brittle bones. For the next several months, these rodents will be living in the "Mice Drawer System," a so-called "Mouse Hotel" that splits into partitions in order to give each mouse ample living environment. Food and drink are delivered to each mouse compartment automatically. Special lights are used to simulate day and night, and hidden cameras are set to monitor the each mouse's progress. The longest any mouse has lived in space has been about a month, but with the Mouse Hotel, researchers are confident that these six mice will live longer. While the astronauts can exercise on the COLBERT treadmill, the mouse drawer compartments do not offer any recreational treadmills for their rodent tenants.

"As for the biomedical experiments of the kind, I suppose they are useful to some degree, but fundamentally what NASA wants is to figure out how to keep a human being in space for an extended period of time (e.g., for its projected missions to Mars)," commented Natalia Connolly, an assistant professor of physics and a professional astronomer, involved in basic research.



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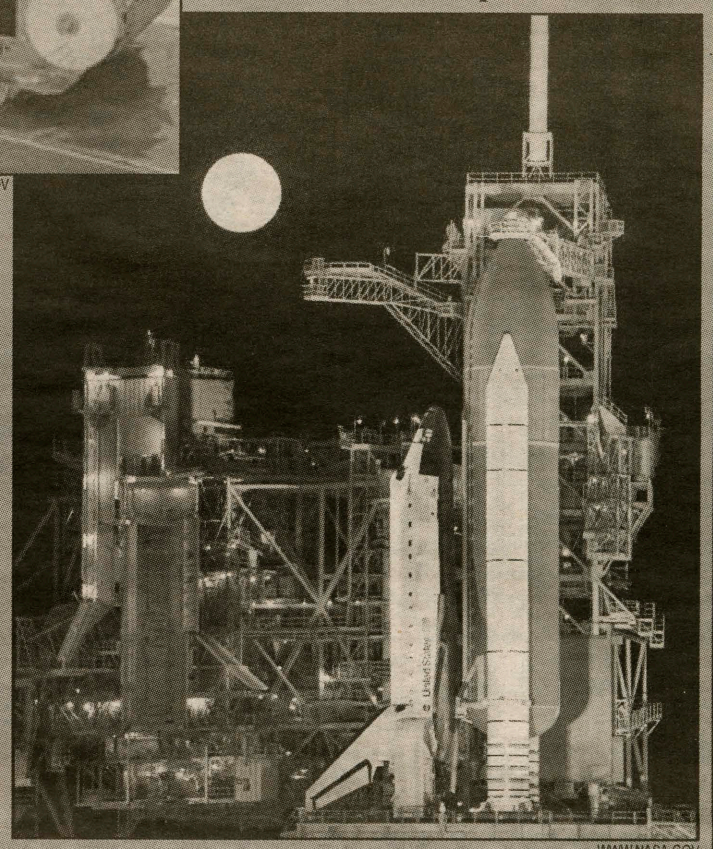
The biggest concern for the *Discovery*'s mission to space was its enormous cost. According to NASA, the average cost to launch a space shuttle is about 450 million dollars. Despite the financial hardships the economy and government are currently facing, NASA still plans to send people back to the moon and even to Mars. When asked about the significance of doing scientific research in space, Professor Connolly said that she finds it hard to get excited about experiments done in space.

"It's mostly applied science, not basic research," said Professor Connolly. "For example, one does want to find out how different materials react to the harsh environment of space -- to build better weather satellites, for example. There's nothing wrong with this. But there's a reason you never hear of a breakthrough discovery facilitated by something done by astronauts. So my point is, just because it's done in space does not mean it's interesting science."

Whether or not pouring a large amount of money into space missions is worthwhile is therefore a controversial issue. According to Professor Connolly, the money spent on costly space projects like the Moon and Mars projects would be better spent on fundamental scientific research instead. "I believe that we can learn all we need to learn about Mars and other interesting places in the solar system using unmanned spacecraft," commented Professor Connolly. "NASA's money that is being poured into the Mars/Moon projects would be better spent on fundamental science, such as understanding the composition of the universe [95 percent of the universe is not understood]."

The Space Shuttle Discovery, pictured below, recently delivered the COLBERT, left, a treadmill designed for use in space, to the International Space Station. The treadmill was named after the talk show host Stephen Colbert.



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Despite these concerns, NASA is intent on maintaining its schedule for future launches. *Discovery* landed on Sept. 10 after having been in space for 13 days. NASA hopes to send further missions to the International Space Station to continue delivering equipment and allow further research.

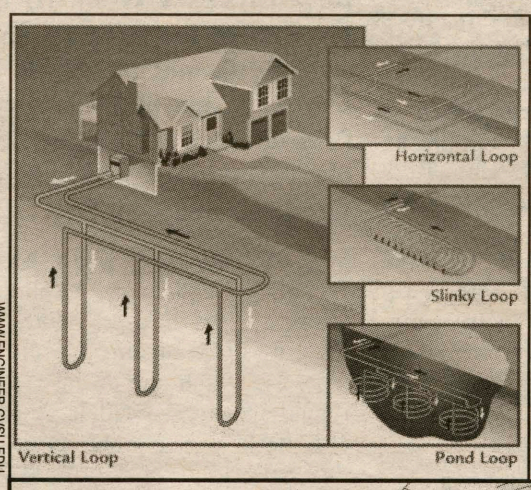
Skenandoa Features Geothermal AC

from ***Cool****, page 14*

the building. "The Skenandoa House is a building the students and community can be proud of," said Rick Fedrizzi, president, CEO and founding chair of the U.S. Green Building Council in a statement about the certification. "This campus building will serve as a showcase for high-performance, energy-efficient, healthy buildings, and an inspiration for other colleges."

Skenandoa's piece de resistance, however, is the 16-well geothermal heating and cooling system which provides the air conditioning. Most heating and cooling systems convert whatever the outside temperature is to the desired one. Geothermal heating and cooling uses the constant temperatures of around 55 degrees underground to lessen the needed change in temperature to bring it to comfortable levels. The only energy needed is to run the pumps, eliminating the need for natural gas, and all electricity for the building is purchased from renewable energy sources. Steve Bellona, Vice President of Facilities, explained that "Not only does Skenandoa House consume significantly less energy per square foot than our other relatively new residence halls, but our cost for renewable electrical energy, on a square foot basis, was less than other residence halls using non-renewable fossil fuels. This is an experiment for us, but so far we are pleased with the payback."

According to the Hamilton website, in its first year of operation, the geothermal system in Skenandoa House used 250% less energy per square foot than would a normal natural gas heating system and the use of electricity from renewable sources for the remaining needs reduced emissions of carbon dioxide by 107.1 tons, nitrous oxide by 289.5 pounds and sulphur dioxide by 765 pounds.



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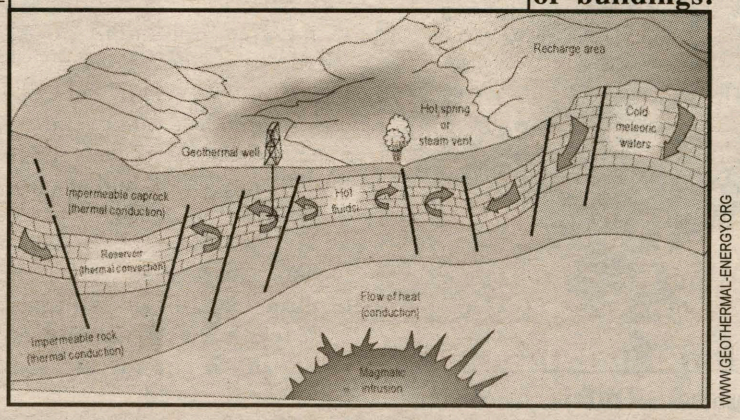

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Geothermal systems (left)employ the naturally maintained temperatures (below) beneath the earth's surface to allow for energy-efficient heating and cooling of buildings.

"We must not forget that when radium was discovered no one knew that it would prove useful in hospitals. The work was one of pure science. And this is a proof that scientific work must not be considered from the point of view of the direct usefulness of it. It must be done for itself, for the beauty of science, and then there is always the chance that a scientific discovery may become like the radium a benefit for humanity."

~ Marie Curie

"Science does not know its debt to imagination."

~Ralph Waldo Emerson

"Every great advance in science has issued from a new audacity of imagination."

~John Dewey

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●2:10-4:40-7:10▲9:35 DTS PG-13

WHITEOUT
●1:20●3:40-5:55-8:10▲10:20 DTS R

SORORITY ROW
●1:45●3:50-6:05-8:20▲10:30 R

TAKING WOODSTOCK
●2:20-4:50-7:20▲9:50 R

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●1:00●4:00-7:00▲10:00 R

ALL ABOUT STEVE *SANDRA BULLOCK*
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Football Kicks Off Turnaround Season vs. Amherst

by Dylan Wulderk '13
Sports Editor

With a new Steuben Field, a pre-season All-American linebacker John Lawrence '10 and a strong freshman class, this could be the year that the Continentals get back on the winning track.

Last year, the team finished with a 2-6 record for the third straight season, earning victories against Wesleyan and Bowdoin. Taken at face value, that would not appear to provide fans with any reason for optimism, but what goes unnoticed in that record is how well the Continentals played last season. In their final seven games combined, the Continentals actually outscored their opponents. They did not lose any of those games by anything more than a touchdown. It would appear that last season was simply marred by bad luck, but that doesn't mean that there isn't room for improvement.

"One of the most crucial things we need to improve on from last year is finishing games," says Lawrence. "Last year we lost four games in the final two minutes. If we can turn that around, we are looking at a great season." Lawrence himself is poised for a strong season. The senior linebacker gained national recognition after he was named a NCAA Division III preseason All-American. Hamilton hasn't had an All-American football player since Eric Grey in 1991.

Lawrence will be the anchor for a defense that ranked eighth in all of Division III last season in run defense—that's better than 191 other schools. They also finished third in the NESCAC in scoring defense.

On the offensive side of the ball, the Continentals return many key players from last season including running backs Mark Snickenberger '11 and Dylan Isenberg '12, wide receivers Scott Kleinklaus '11 and Max Foster '10.

The "running berg" duo managed to combine for 750 yards and six touchdowns last season, en route to rushing for 25 more yards per game than their opponents, and they will certainly be key to the team's success this season.

The team has not named a starting quaterback for the upcoming season. Four quarterbacks were added to the team this year and any one of these first years or an upperclass quarterback could get the nod at the position. No matter who gets the job, his transition will certainly be easier thanks to the veteran presence of Kleinklaus and Foster.

The offense as a whole was young last season, and with so many key players earning playing time early in their athletic careers, the Continentals offense should be fun to watch this upcoming season. A strong first year class should also add to the potential that this year's Hamilton Continentals possess. So just how good can this team be?

"We are confident that if we play to our potential, we can beat anyone in the league," says Lawrence. "The ultimate goal is a NESCAC Championship, but right now we are just committed to preparing to beat Amherst."

Saturday, September 26 is the season opener for Continentals football and the beginning of a new era on their new turf field. Wear your buff and blue and support them as they take on conference rival Amherst. This could be an incredible year, so get out there and cheer them on.

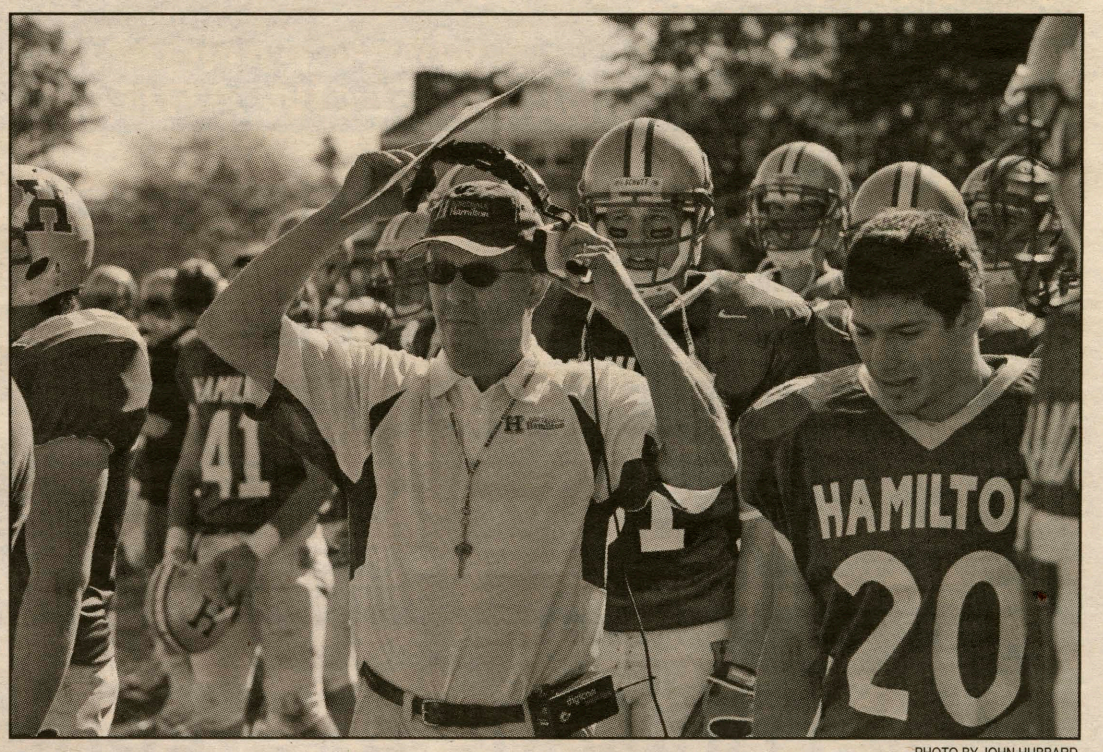

PHOTO BY JOHN HUBBARD

Head Coach Steve Stetson rallies the troops during the team's win against Bowdoin last season.

Victory Sealed After Five Minutes of Action

*from **Women's Soccer**, page 20*

pectations of our freshmen. We are in an unusual situation this year because two of them can't play (Haight and Bendetti) due to injury and illness. But at least three will get significant playing time. They collectively will add some firing power to our offense,"

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"Scoring my first goal for Hamilton was great. I felt I was now part of the Hamilton community instead of my high school team."

Alex Rimmer '13

Coach Gilligan explained.

This offense is apparently on fire right now. Visiting Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts never stood a chance against a well organized Hamilton team that played a great press and produced many chances to score. The team managed 26 shots, four of which ended up tangling in the net.

Goalie Kate Fowler '10 reflected on the last game and the season's bright future,: "We got the ball rolling pretty well and controlled the game. Personally, I want to improve in making fewer mistakes and gain more confidence."

Anne Graveley '11 scored after only five minutes off a short pass from Laura Brandimarte '11. Thirteen minutes later, Rimmer scored her first collegiate goal. Lauren Brousseau '12 assisted Katie Mann '10 to extend the lead to three goals in the fifty-seventh minute. Feldman set the last highlight after 87 minutes.

The good start will be a helpful motivation for the women's soccer team, which will now face five games in a row on the road. This Saturday, the team will play at SUNY Oswego before visiting SUNY Cortland, Nazareth College, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and Vassar College in the weeks to come.

Coach Gilligan was confident in the team's upcoming success that she even guaranteed victory. "Oswego will be a tough opponent, especially at their place where it can get very windy. But I am confident we can beat them. Looking just at the players, they are not as good as us."

This confidence will prove extremely valuable in the team's quest to bring home another NCAA tournament run.

Golf Starts with Young Team

*from **Men's Golf**, page 20*

"The team has changed dramatically from the past year as the average age of the team members dropped dramatically. This, however, is encouraging because it does not seem to have affected the scoring, so the future of Hamilton golf appears to be promising," said Captain Phil Preiss '10.

The team's coaching staff consists of head coach Al Highducheck, as well as Bob Simon, Paul Hagstrom and Tom Hovey. Coach Hovey was not around last season, so the team looks forward to having him back this season. The coaches have set high team goals early this year, including hopes to make the push into the NCAA Division III Championship this year. Coach Highducheck sets the lineup not only by the numbers, but also by playing experience. This strategy not only takes pressure off new players, but also helps the more experienced players lead the team.

Coach Highducheck has added three new players to the roster this fall: Greg Cassidy '11, Knute Gailor '13 and first year phenom Hans Schulte '13. All three competed in the first tournament and look forward to contributing to the team on and off the course.

"One of our newest members, first year Hans Schulte, is going to be an immediate impact player in the NESCAC," said Roche. His freshman season, Roche earned the Rookie of the Year award, and Schulte hopes to follow in his footsteps.

The rest of the returning team members include Will Kresock '11 and Riley Jorgensen '11. Kresock opened eyes when he led the team's 72-hole qualifying match.

"Riley Jorgensen worked hard over the summer and is off to a great start," said Roche. The roster has some serious depth to it, and it will be interesting to see who plays where as the season continues.

The team will host its annual 16-team invitational this fall. The two-day event takes place at Yahnundasis Golf Club in New Hartford for day one and at the Skenandoa Golf Club just down the road from campus for day two. The Continentals have been practicing for about a week now at both courses. They played their first tournament this past weekend; it was a quadrangular with SUNY Delhi, St. Lawrence and Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. They traveled to Delhi on Saturday with nine players, and Blosser shot a team low round of 75. The second day of competition was held at the Skenandoa Golf Club. On day two, Roche led Hamilton with a team low round of 75, making his two-day total 151. Hamilton finished tied for second place with St. Lawrence, losing to SUNY Delhi. The rest of the Continentals' schedule includes tournaments at St. Lawrence University, Williams College, Middlebury College, the University of Rochester and Skidmore College.

PHOTO BY JOHN HUBBARD

The golf team finished second in its first tournament of the year.

Hillary Langat '13 Arrives with Speed and Character

by Cooper Creagan '13
Sports Writer

This is a new feature of our sports section focusing on exceptional athletes. If you know any interesting athletes or want to be featured yourself, please contact us at dhagemei@hamilton.edu

Hamilton College is privileged to be the new home of one of Kenya's most impressive scholar athletes: Hillary Langat '13. Langat's path to college was not an easy one. In fact, he was not even sure he would make it out of high school.

Though this talented young man was accepted by the best school in Kenya, he stayed in his rural village to help support his family, which includes 17 brothers and sisters. He would walk to the local school so he would not have to pay the bus fare.

Langat ran in high school, but his primary focus was on his studies. His family life required that he leave school quite often, and thus he was always working to catch up – certainly not an easy feat when he didn't have any textbooks.

"I would have to borrow from friends," Langat remembered. "They helped a lot."

During his third year of high school, one of his older brothers fell very ill, and Langat was out of school for three months to care for him. Though Langat claims his passing high school was unexpected, he managed "generally A grades" in all of his classes.

As for making it to the Hill, Langat owes thanks to John Manners, whose program KenSAP (Kenya Scholar Athlete Program) takes Kenya's brightest students and places them in American colleges and universities. Langat was among 14 elite students selected from hundreds of others. The program itself is no easy task to complete. Langat had an oral interview, wrote eight essays. And ran a 1500 meter race, in which he placed first with a blazing 4:10 at high altitude.

Despite his prowess, Langat was skeptical that he would ever make it to America. Given his humble beginnings, "it seemed so unrealistic." So unrealistic, in fact, that the first year didn't even know he was at Hamilton when he arrived in June for HEOP (Higher Education Opportunity Program). The trees, open spaces and old buildings were nothing like the universities in Kenya.

The people he met in HEOP, Langat said, were his first friends in the U.S. He thanks Phyllis Breland, director of HEOP, for the program that helped him adjust to a "different culture, different everything." And, like his friends back home, the program also helped him get his textbooks.

Hamilton has met the young man's expectations in a variety of ways. His criteria included a liberal arts experience in a rural area in New York. Check, check, and check. He loves the professors here, as well as the freedom to try different things. For example, though he has never taken it before, Langat is discovering a love for his Economics 101 course.

Beyond economics, Langat is studying chemistry and biology. He wants to become a doctor, as it is thanks to a doctor that he is with us today. At eight months old, Langat was kicked in the head by a donkey. "I became unconscious for two days," he explained, revealing a scar above his ear. Due to the severe bleeding, Langat said, "no one believed I would survive, not even my mother…"

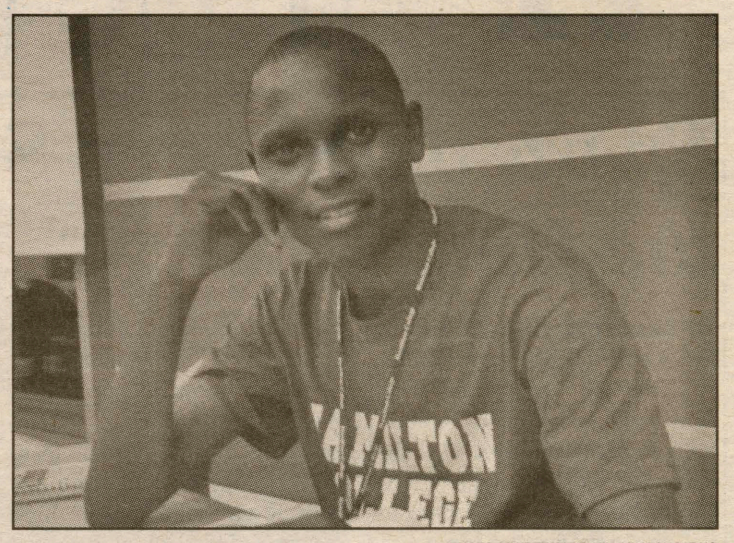

PHOTO COURTESY OF HILLARY LANGAT '13

Hillary Langat '13 explores life as a collegiate student athlete as he works on his first economics problem set.

But he did survive, and after completing graduate school here in America, Langat will go back to Kenya to "change the face of [his] family."

But first, Langat plans to make Hamilton athletics the best they can be. He describes the cross country training as "so cool" and likes how understanding Coach Hull is. Langat has made good friends on the team, and he noted that they "make me feel like I'm at home."

So, just what are Langat's goals on the team? With some intense training, he said, he could perhaps be as fast as the legendary Peter Kosgei '10. However, Langat conceded that Kosgei's records would not fall easily. "When a Kenyan sets a record, it's hard to break… especially in longer races." Currently, however, Langat is nursing an Achilles tendon injury and is doing most of his training on a bicycle.

"I expect to get fixed up as soon as possible," he said, "to support the team and the coach."

Langat claims that doing well for the team is his way of "giving back to the College." Without a doubt, we are all excited to see just how much assistance this amazing freshman will offer.

"When a Kenyan sets a record, it's hard to break… especially in longer races."

-Hillary Langat '13 in reference to Peter Kosgei's '10 records

Sports Off The Hill

Bruce Bowen, three time NBA champion, known for his defensive prowess, retires to pursue the brutal hair salon business in San Antonio (Yardley's Salon & Spa). Let's cut some hair!

After shopping for 16-year-old soccer phenom Gaël Kakuta, FIFA initiated a transfer ban on Chelsea London until January 2011. Who knew investing in **young talent** could be so wrong?

Chargers linebacker Shawn Merriman and television star **Tila Tequila** sort out their differences like any civilized couple: by having a Twitter battle. This is, of course, taking place in the aftermath of Merriman's arrest for supposedly restraining Tequila from leaving and choking her.

The Pittsburgh **Pirates** capped off their record seventeenth consecutive losing season in classic pirate fashion by plundering the joy from their baseball fans, along with the continuance of Pittsburgh's reign as the top sports city. Maybe they should consult Sanantonio Holmes on how to catch.

Sports Writers Wanted. Looks Sick on Any Resume.

Please contact either dhagemei@hamilton.edu or dgreenbe@hamilton.edu

Field Hockey Begins with 5-1 Blowout Effort

by Greg Hyman '13
Sports Writer

Coming off of a very successful 2008 season, the women's field hockey team looks strong as it embarks on the 2009 campaign with Coach Gillian McDonald at the helm, entering her fourth year with the team. After finishing last season 8-7 and qualifying for the four-team Liberty League championship tournament, the team is returning some experience, including Co-Captains Courtney DeMaria '10 and Amy Allen '10, along with a host of new talent, resulting in a potent combination that should promise impressive results. During the 2008 season, the Continentals shut out a nationally-ranked Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute team, and won an exciting overtime game at William Smith College, which clinched the team's first postseason appearance since 1995. That year also stood as the last time Hamilton finished with a winning record.

The team is looking to continue the upward trend that started the past few seasons and qualify for end-of-season tournaments,

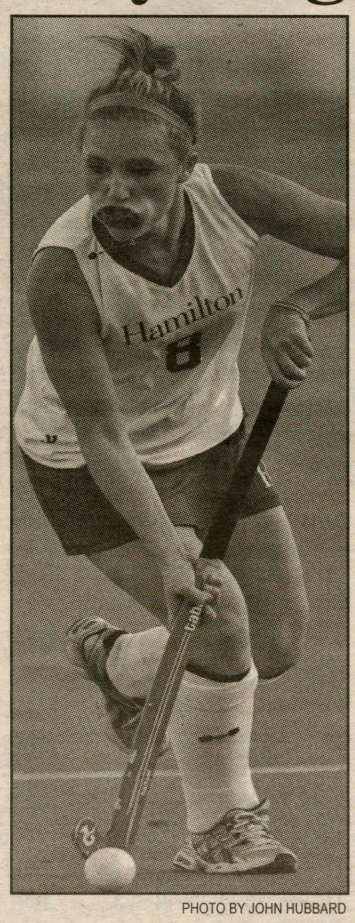

PHOTO BY JOHN HUBBARD

Forward Carly Andrascik '11 pushes the ball upfield.

like last season's Liberty League championship, in which the Continentals fell to ultimate runners-up St. Lawrence University in a 2-1 contest. Hopefully the Continentals can dethrone the reigning Liberty League champions from Skidmore College, who finished last season 15-4 with a 6-1 League record.

Eight starters have returned for this season, including the top five leaders in points from last year, as well as the goalie. DeMaria, a three-year starter in goal and all-league Second Team selection as a rookie in 2006, has not missed a game and has recorded three shutouts. DeMaria, Allen and Marisa Spagnolo '12, will anchor the defense. Allen was all-league Honorable Mention in 2008.

Hamilton's offense also looks poised with Colleen Callaghan '11 and Erin McNally '12 leading the way. Callaghan recorded seven goals, assisted 10 others and led the team with 24 points, giving her sole claim to third place on the program's career list with 17 assists. McNally was next on the squad with eight assists and scored two goals. Carly Andrascik '11 tied Callaghan for the team lead with seven goals. Mary Lancaster '12 also played an important role as a first year, stepping in and recording five goals of her own.

Coach McDonald, just the fifth head coach in the program's history, has led the Continentals to 17 wins in three years. Hamilton can boast a pair of four-game win streaks during McDonald's tenure. Prior to her time here, the last time the Continentals won four straight games was 1996.

The team is not short on individual success either. McNally and Callaghan were named to the North Atlantic All-Region Second Team in 2008. Additionally, both players were selected Liberty League First Team all-stars and McNally was voted the league's Rookie of the Year. Coach McDonald has also coached her players to eight All-League selections in three years.

Hamilton competes in the eight-team Liberty League, one of the best field hockey conferences in the country, which boasts several teams annually advancing to the national championships. The Continentals will host eight of their 14 games at Hamilton's turf field on Campus Road. The Continentals added NESCAC member Williams College to the schedule for the first time in the program's 39-year history.

The team has begun the season on a strong note as it looks forward to a 14-game schedule, culminating with a showdown at home in a non-League contest against Morrisville State on Halloween. Hamilton beat a SUNY Geneseo team easily 5-1 this past Saturday at home. Callaghan scored three goals and assisted another. McNally and Catie Torcivia '12 each had one goal and one assist. DeMaria needed to make just two saves as Hamilton thoroughly dominated play in its season opener. It is the first time since 2003 that Hamilton opened their season with a win. The Continentals had a 23-4 advantage in shots and took nine penalty corners to five for Geneseo.

The Continentals will host nearby rivals Utica College this Saturday, hoping to continue their winning ways. If you missed the season opener, come to the next game to witness our great team in action.

A Hamilton College Student Publication, Clinton, NY Volume L Number 2

H SPECTATOR SPORTS

September 10, 2009

Sports on the Hill...

Intramural Sports started last weekend. For two months, students who registered their teams will play soccer, volleyball, football and softball. The team that wins its league will be rewarded with an IM Champions t-shirt. Anybody who is not currently playing can register again in November. Contact David Thompson (dthompso@hamilton.edu) for more information.

Colleen Callaghan '11 was named a Liberty League field hockey co-offensive performer of the week after contributing three goals and one assist to Hamilton's win against SUNY Geneseo (see article on page 19).

Tracy Coffmann is the new softball head coach. Coffmann was the softball pitching coach at Stetson University last season and has spent the last seven years coaching at NCAA Division I programs.

Soccer Starts Season on Right Foot

by Daniel Hagemeier '11
Sports Editor

They all came. With only six minutes left in the women's soccer team's home opener against Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts, the men's football team climbed up the seating rows from newly built Steuben field to watch. They joined a crowd of approximately 100 people, and they did not leave disappointed.

Shortly after the football players shouted "Go Hamilton," Ricki Feldman '10 scored the fourth goal of the match with a header after Charlotte Cosgrove '13 lofted the ball into the box and Katie Lyons '11 headed it to her teammate to give Hamilton a never threatened 4-0 win. Coach Gilligan's team could not have wished for a better start.

"I honestly thought MCLA would be a stronger opponent," says Gilligan. "But of course I'm very pleased with our play. We could have easily scored six or seven goals."

A good start to the new season was needed after the team failed to reach the playoffs last year for the first time in nine years. The team finished with an 8-4-2 record, scoring 33 times while allowing only 13 goals.

Coach Gilligan reiterated her disappointment, "I wasn't happy with our overall performance last year because we didn't make the tournament. Small lapses in the games really hurt us in the end. You shouldn't dominate a team and come out with a tie. We were only a win away from making the Liberty League tournament. If we had made it to the playoffs, I believe we would have received an at-large bid to the NCAA tournament."

One goal for this season is to improve the team's offensive efficiency.

"We want to improve on being mentally tough and closing games," explained Coach Gilligan.

The team has lost Erica Dressler '09 who scored 12 goals last season. Fellow forward Lauren Farver '11 will need to step up and continue to score for the Continentals. In 2008, she scored eight times while assisting on two more goals. In her first year, she scored three times.

PHOTO BY JOHN HUBBARD

Goalie Kate Fowler '10 sealed a shutout for Hamilton.

Coach Gilligan also stated, "But having more than one dangerous player makes it harder for the other team to mark everybody."

Jessy Gelber '09, Maggie Porges '09, Erica Pettis '10 (who now works as the team's game announcer after an injury plagued career), Phoebe Potter '09 and Megan Braaten '11 (study abroad) also left the team.

The team hopes to close those holes with six incoming players. Coach Gilligan counts on the contributions of first years Chelsea Haight, Charlotte Cosgrove, Kristy Bendetti, Alexandra Rimmer, Christie Crawford and Cris DeBiase.

"We always have high ex-

*see **Women's Soccer**, page 18*

Volleyball Digs Out Victory in Opener

by Riley Smith '12
Sports Writer

Last year, the volleyball team reached its highest win total since 1999, despite having only a limited number of players available. This year, Coach Erin Reding begins her second year at the helm and she is determined to improve upon last year's 10-22 record, and is hoping to lead the Continentals into the NESCAC playoffs. Joining her is new Assistant Coach Jenna Henderson, a former star at Bucknell University, who will contribute some excellent new insight from her Division I playing experience.

Coach Reding's team is very young and inexperienced, which could be a weakness. But the incoming first year class will add some depth and talent to the team.

"We could not have asked for better freshmen. They are dedicated and committed to making the team better. I expect all of the freshmen to make significant contributions to the team and play a crucial role on the court," said captain Rachel Irizarry '12.

Amanda Cohen '13 and Kristen Stenerson '12 had an impact on the team right away, evidenced by Cohen being named to the season-opening All Tournament Team at Emerson College and Stenerson receiving the game ball for her excellent play over the first games of the season.

The team's first competition was the Emerson College/Wentworth Institute of Technology Tournament last week in Boston. The weekend started off rocky; however, the team pulled out a win concluding the three-day tournament with a 1-3 record.

Jasmine Jolly '10 recorded an impressive ten kills, ten digs, and two aces against Ramapo College while Cohen added nine kills and seven digs. Ally Martella '13 led the defense with three blocks and Irizarry secured a team high 13 digs. Hamilton fell to Ramapo in a close loss of 2-3 and then to Emerson 0-3 and Wentworth 1-3.

Last Sunday afternoon, Hamilton took on Framingham State where they were able to turn up the intensity and secure a 3-2 victory ending the weekend on a high note. Their improvement throughout the weekend reflects the progress they are expecting this year.

Did you know...

...that the volleyball team has eclipsed the 25-win mark twice in its history (1987 and 1992)?

Irizarry explained the start of the season as a process. "Our first tournament was geared towards getting the kinks out. We were playing different positions, using different defenses, and Coach was trying out different line-ups and rotations. We are a very new team and are still learning to play and grow together."

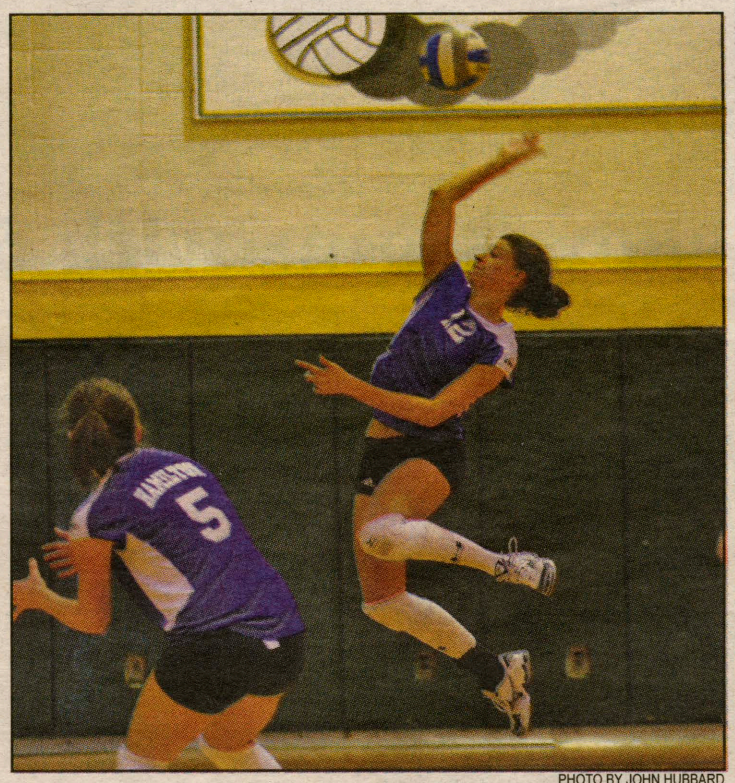

PHOTO BY JOHN HUBBARD

Team captain Alex Singh '11 emphatically spikes the ball.

The Continentals are striving to improve on and off the court. Captain Alex Singh '11 describes some of their goals for the season as an emphasis on accountability and "a stress on fundamentals, remaining mentally strong and constantly striving for perfection."

While the team does have a strong new group of first years, Coach Reding stresses that the team relies on the leadership of the upperclassman, in particular captains Singh and Irizarry.

"I feel fortunate to be working with such mature and competent women," offered Reding.

Overall, volleyball embraces a new team, a new mentality and anticipates a successful rest of the season with a goal of reaching conference playoffs. The team's first home match will be in the Field House on September 16 at 7 p.m. Be sure to come out for this special occasion as the Continentals take on local rival Utica College.

Golf Shots

by Kendall Weir '12
Sports Writer

Think last season's heartbreaking loss in the men's golf NESCAC finale to Middlebury by three shots was a sign of rough times to come? Think again. The team has high hopes to play in the NCAA Division III Championship this time around.

"Although it was tough seeing them qualify for NCAAs, I think our team can use that as motivation to have a successful season," said Captain Brad Roche '11.

Despite the loss, the Continentals had quite a successful 08-09 season. The team placed first in a tournament at St. Lawrence University and finished second in three others. The team lost three senior starters from last season: Jeff Corbett, Kevin Osborne and Dave Christie.

"It's obviously tough losing three seniors who played in the top six, but having underclassmen as dedicated as Scott Blosser '12 and L.J. Scurfield '12 will really make things easier," said Roche.

Along with the seniors, Roche, Blosser and Scurfield completed last year's top six, but the lineup will look significantly different this season.

*see **Men's Golf**, page 18*